

Canadian Citizenship~ Reflections

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Canadian Citizenship~ Reflections

The Ontario Advisory Council on
Multiculturalism and Citizenship



Editor
Shiu L. Kong

Editorial Note

We have reproduced these letters without altering the author's style. Only in a few special cases have we made editorial adjustments.

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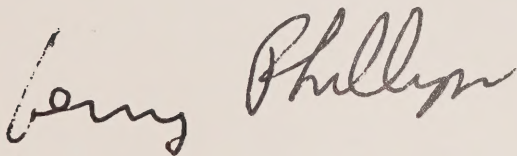
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FOREWORD

I am very pleased to introduce this special publication which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Canadian Citizenship. The granting of Citizenship, while it carries specific legal rights and responsibilities, goes far beyond the domain of the lawyer or lawmaker. Indeed, there will never be only one version of what it means to be a Canadian.

Whether we live in St. John's or Victoria, Frobisher Bay or Toronto, all of us have our personal answer to the question — "What is a Canadian Citizen?" — We base our answers on our own experiences in this country. These experiences are marked by cultural diversity and respect for cultural differences. This rich diversity comprises the great Canadian mosaic for which Canada is so famous.

Forty-one years ago, none of us had the legal right to call ourselves Canadian citizens. Today, none of us would be without it. This booklet, which presents such moving personal statements on what it means to be Canadian in 1988, illustrates just how precious that right is.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerry Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Gerry" is written in a more compact, rounded script, while "Phillips" is written in a more elongated, flowing script with a prominent loop at the end.

Gerry Phillips
Minister of Citizenship

PRÉFACE

C'est avec grand plaisir que je vous présente cette publication commémorant le 40^e anniversaire de la citoyenneté canadienne. Bien qu'il ait pour corollaire un certain nombre de droits juridiques et d'obligations légales, l'octroi de la citoyenneté a des répercussions allant bien au-delà du champ de compétence des juristes et des législateurs; c'est pourquoi il n'y aura jamais une seule définition de ce qu'est être canadien.

Que nous vivions à St-Jean ou à Victoria, à la Baie Frobisher ou à Toronto, nos réponses à la question "Qu'est-ce qu'un citoyen canadien?" ne sont jamais tout à fait les mêmes. Elles reflètent nos expériences personnelles, nos origines et traditions fort diverses, composantes de cette grande mosaïque culturelle qui vaut au Canada l'admiration du monde entier.

Jusqu'en 1947, aucun de nous n'avait légalement le droit de se dire citoyen du Canada. Aujourd'hui, cela nous paraît inconcevable. Ce recueil de témoignages émouvants de Canadiens et de Canadiennes fiers de l'être en 1988 illustre bien combien ce droit nous est précieux.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Gerry Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gerry" written in a more compact, stylized script, and the last name "Phillips" written in a more open, flowing cursive.

Le ministre des Affaires civiques,
Gerry Phillips

INTRODUCTION

This year, 1987, marks the fortieth anniversary of Canadian citizenship. Canadians are proud to be a part of a great nation. As individuals we live in communities across a vast land blessed with an abundance of resources and opportunities. As a people, whether we were born here or have recently arrived as new immigrants, we all have roots that came from another land at some point in time. Together we make up a diversity of culture and tradition that reflects that of the world. Together we can build a free, united, prosperous and just society, one in which basic human dignity and rights are accorded a value of the highest order.

In a young country such as Canada, citizenship is a living force. It changes and grows both in concept and practice as society evolves and as people exercise their rights and responsibilities in their daily lives. The right to call ourselves Canadian citizens has only existed since the proclamation of the Citizenship Act in 1947. Even then, there were inequities in the citizenship between British nationals and people of other origins, between men and women. And although a Canadian citizen might travel with a Canadian passport, it was tacitly understood that he or she was under the protection of the mightier British nation. A Canadian passport then was marked with the sentence: "A Canadian citizen is a British subject". Many changes were witnessed in Canada and the world during the three decades between 1947 and 1977. One of the most important changes in Canadian society has been an increasing diversity of its population. This, together with the impact of technology and urbanization, has resulted in a change of social values and human relationships. These changes were reflected in the Citizenship Act of 1977, which removed special treatment for British nationals, guaranteed equal treatment to all applicants for Canadian citizenship, and affirmed identical rights and responsibilities for all Canadian citizens, regardless of their sex and birth-place. In addition, the new Canadian passport proclaimed its holder to be protected by the diplomatic and military powers of Canada as an independent nation.

Citizenship acts prescribe the conditions for citizenship and the procedure for its attainment. They also define the legal status of individual members of a society, as well as the quality of the human relationships between them. As the Latin dictum "operation defines being" suggests, the procedure which new immigrants must follow in order to acquire Canadian citizenship defines, at least in part, the quality of or qualification for Canadian citizenship. Under current practice, a prospective citizen must undergo a test given by a Citizenship Judge in order to qualify for citizenship. The content of the test includes a knowledge and under-

standing of Canada's form of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the right to vote in elections and to run for elective office, enumerating and voting procedures, and Canadian history and geography. If knowledge in these areas constitutes the minimum desirable qualification for Canadian citizenship, then perhaps it also represents a fundamental qualification of Canadian citizenship and should be required of all Canadians.

Time progresses and conditions change. A new dimension of Canadian citizenship emerged with the institutionalization of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. Among other things, the Charter defined a national commitment to diversity and a respect for the heritage and values of the diverse cultural groups that make up the Canadian mosaic. From that point, Canadian distinctiveness has been characterized by its bilingualism and multiculturalism, and being a Canadian means being aware of and sharing in all the cultures that make up the collective character of this country. This new dimension of citizenship presents Canadians today with a challenge that has no precedence in history.

The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship has chosen to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Canadian Citizenship, by raising a collective reflection on the question: "What is a Canadian citizen?" We believe that by sharing the opinions and thoughts of a broad spectrum of concerned citizens on this question, we may derive a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be a Canadian in 1987.

Through personal letters sent in June, we asked over 5100 individuals in leadership roles across Ontario to reflect on the meaning and idiosyncrasies of Canadian citizenship and to share their views with us. (A copy of this invitational letter is included in Appendix I). Twenty per cent of the letters were returned, and a few of these withheld comment for various reasons that were explained. Most of the respondents were enthusiastic and took great care in deliberating on what they considered to be a very important subject.

As might be expected with any open-ended invitation to express personal views, the answers we received were as diverse in perception as they were rich in substance. Nevertheless, a number of traits and qualities were commonly mentioned. Tolerant, hard-working, responsible, democratic, modest, law-abiding, concerned with the welfare of other people and nations, polite, respectful of law and institutions, flexibility, love of freedom, humanitarian, and, above all, growing and changing in identity — these are the qualities that, again and again, were identified as being Canadian.

What is even more important and telling, perhaps, are the different vantage points from which our respondents approached the question of who is and what it means to be a Canadian. Emerging from all these varied views is a sense that the concept of Canadian citizenship is dynamic and changing. Perhaps the true characteristic of the Canadian personality is its flexibility and adaptability in responding to renewal and change in a diverse, interdependent world.

The Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship takes great pleasure in publishing these personal reflections on Canadian citizenship on the fortieth anniversary of this significant achievement. We would like to thank all the people who so generously shared their thoughts and feelings with us to make this publication possible. We acknowledge with gratitude the helpful assistance given by Alex Katsabouris in this project. Last but not least, we must thank the Honourable Gerry Phillips, Minister of Citizenship, for his contribution in writing the Foreword. It is our ardent hope that this publication will generate insight and understanding not only into who we are, but also into who we could become.

S.L. Kong
November, 1987

INTRODUCTION

L'année 1987 marque le quarantième anniversaire de la citoyenneté canadienne. Nous, Canadiens, sommes fiers de notre appartenance à une grande nation. À titre individuel, nous vivons dans des collectivités réparties sur un vaste territoire aux ressources abondantes. À titre collectif, que nous soyons nés ici ou arrivés récemment au pays, nous avons tous des ancêtres qui, à un moment ou un autre, sont venus d'ailleurs. Ensemble, nous formons un regroupement de cultures et de traditions diverses qui reflètent celles du monde entier. Ensemble, nous pouvons édifier une société libre, unie, prospère et juste, une société au sein de laquelle on accorde une place primordiale à la dignité et aux droits fondamentaux de la personne.

Dans un pays aussi jeune que le Canada, la citoyenneté est une notion dynamique, qui se modifie et s'affermi à la fois en théorie et en pratique à mesure que la société évolue et que les personnes qui la composent exercent leurs droits et assument leurs responsabilités dans leur vie quotidienne. Ce n'est que depuis la promulgation de la Loi sur la citoyenneté, en 1947, que nous avons le droit de nous appeler des citoyens canadiens. Pourtant, les personnes de nationalité britannique et celles d'autres origines ne jouissaient toujours pas d'un traitement équitable sur le plan de la citoyenneté, et il en était de même des femmes par rapport aux hommes. Un citoyen canadien pouvait voyager avec un passeport canadien, mais il était entendu qu'il était sous la protection de la bien plus puissante nation britannique. La phrase suivante était inscrite dans tout passeport canadien: "Un citoyen canadien est sujet britannique." De nombreux changements se sont produits au Canada et dans le reste du monde de 1947 à 1977. L'un des changements les plus importants qui soient survenus dans la société canadienne pendant cette période avait trait à la diversité croissante de la population. Cette diversité, ainsi que les effets de la technologie et de l'urbanisation, ont entraîné une modification des valeurs sociales et des relations humaines. La Loi sur la citoyenneté, adoptée en 1977, reflétait ces changements: elle éliminait le traitement spécial dont jouissaient les personnes de nationalité britannique, assurait un traitement égal à toutes les personnes qui demandaient la citoyenneté canadienne et conférait des droits et responsabilités identiques à tous les citoyens canadiens, sans égard à leur sexe ou à leur lieu de naissance. En outre, le nouveau passeport canadien mentionnait que son titulaire était protégé par les pouvoirs diplomatiques et militaires du Canada en tant que nation indépendante.

Les lois portant sur la citoyenneté prescrivent les conditions à remplir et la marche à suivre pour obtenir la citoyenneté. Elles définissent également le statut juridique des membres d'une société, de même que les relations qu'ils entretiennent. La marche à suivre que doivent respecter les nouveaux immigrants pour obtenir la citoyenneté canadienne définit, au moins en partie, les qualités ou exigences à remplir à cet effet. Selon les méthodes actuelles, toute personne qui aspire à la citoyenneté canadienne doit subir un examen devant un juge de la citoyenneté pour y être admissible. Cet examen permet de vérifier la connaissance et la compréhension du système de gouvernement canadien, des droits et responsabilités liés à la citoyenneté, du droit de voter lors des élections et de se présenter à une charge électorale, des méthodes de dénombrement et de vote, ainsi que de l'histoire et de la géographie canadiennes. Si ces connaissances représentent le strict minimum qu'il y aurait lieu de posséder pour devenir citoyen canadien, elles pourraient bien constituer un des éléments fondamentaux de la citoyenneté canadienne et, dans ce cas, devraient être exigées de tous les Canadiens.

Les conditions changent au fil des ans. Depuis 1982, la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés a ajouté une nouvelle dimension à la notion de citoyenneté canadienne. La Charte fait notamment état d'un engagement national à l'égard de la diversité et d'un respect du patrimoine et des valeurs des divers groupes culturels qui composent la mosaïque canadienne. Le Canada se distingue désormais par son bilinguisme et son multiculturalisme, et être Canadien c'est être conscient de toutes les cultures qui donnent au pays son caractère collectif, et les partager. Cette nouvelle dimension de la notion de citoyenneté pose un défi sans précédent à la génération actuelle de Canadiens.

Le Conseil consultatif des relations civiques et multiculturelles de l'Ontario a choisi de souligner le quarantième anniversaire de la citoyenneté canadienne en incitant la population à réfléchir sur le thème "Qu'est-ce qu'un citoyen canadien?" Nous estimons qu'en faisant part des opinions et observations de citoyens de milieux très divers, nous pourrions en arriver à une compréhension globale de ce que cela signifie d'être Canadien en 1987.

En juin dernier, nous avons envoyé des lettres à plus de 500 personnes qui occupent des postes de direction dans tout l'Ontario pour les inciter à une réflexion sur le sens et les caractéristiques de la citoyenneté canadienne et leur demander de nous faire connaître leur point de vue. (On trouvera un exemplaire de cette lettre à l'annexe 1). Nous avons reçu des réponses à 20 pour 100 de ces lettres, et quelques-uns des correspondants, pour diverses raisons qu'ils ont mentionnées, n'ont formulé aucune observation. La majorité des correspondants, toutefois, se sont montrés enthousiastes et ont abordé très sérieusement un sujet qu'ils jugeaient fort important.

Comme on peut s'y attendre lorsqu'on invite les gens à exprimer leur opinion sans leur fournir de directives précises, les réponses reçues étaient aussi diverses sur le plan des perceptions qu'elles étaient riches en contenu. Certaines qualités et caractéristiques revenaient cependant fréquemment. La tolérance, l'ardeur au travail, le sens des responsabilités et de la démocratie, la modestie, l'observance des lois, le souci du bien-être d'autrui et des autres nations, la politesse, le respect à l'égard des institutions, la souplesse, l'amour de la liberté, l'humanisme et, par-dessus tout, une identité qui évolue et s'affermi — voilà les qualités que l'on mentionnait sans cesse comme étant canadiennes.

Nous avons trouvé encore plus importants et plus révélateurs, peut-être, les divers angles sous lesquels nos correspondants ont défini ce qu'était un Canadien et ce que cela signifiait. Ce qui se dégage de ce vaste éventail de points de vue, c'est que la notion de citoyenneté canadienne est dynamique. La véritable caractéristique de la personnalité canadienne réside peut-être dans sa souplesse et sa facilité d'adaptation face au changement dans un monde diversifié et interdépendant.

Le Conseil consultatif des relations civiques et multiculturelles de l'Ontario est très heureux de publier ces réflexions personnelles sur la citoyenneté canadienne à l'occasion de cet anniversaire important. Nous tenons à remercier toutes les personnes qui ont si aimablement accepté de nous faire part de leurs observations et de leurs sentiments sur cette question et nous ont ainsi permis de produire cette publication. Nous remercions tout particulièrement M. Alex Katsabouris pour sa contribution inestimable à ce projet. Nous tenons enfin à remercier le ministre des Affaires civiques, l'honorable Gerry Phillips, de son avant-propos. Nous souhaitons ardemment que cette publication non seulement nous permette de mieux comprendre qui nous sommes mais nous donne également un aperçu de nos possibilités futures en tant que Canadiens.

S.L. Kong

Novembre 1987

David Peterson
Premier Of Ontario

*... conciliation, fellow feeling, rapprochement -
a distinct Canadian character.*

The Way Of The World Tomorrow

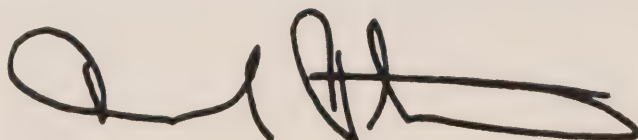
What is a Canadian? Some commentators have solemnly informed us that there is no such animal, explaining that we are too young a country to have evolved a national personality. However, I believe there *is* a distinct Canadian character, and that it can be found in our tradition of bringing together and arranging differences harmoniously.

The tradition began a hundred and twenty years ago in Charlottetown when, without violence or bloodshed, the English and French cultures joined hands in federation. In 1987 at Meech Lake, the federation renewed itself, and again it was the spirit of consensus that won the day. From 1867 to 1987, from bi-culturalism to multiculturalism, the temperament informing our Constitution and our society has expressed itself in conciliation, fellow feeling, *rapprochement*.

Canada's mosaic of culture and linguistic resources seems to mirror the world. But more than that - and in a very real sense - I think this country reflects back a promise and a hope for the world: Canadian Society is proof that peoples of all cultures can not only live together in peace, but that they can build a productive community based on shared human values.

Yes, there is a Canadian character. It is still growing and evolving, and it is helping to show the way for the world of tomorrow.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of this great nation, and to be involved in the crucial experiment we Canadians have undertaken - to demonstrate there is harmony in diversity, and that co-operation works.



David Peterson
Le Premier Ministre de l'Ontario

*“... la conciliation, la fraternité et le rapprochement -
l'identité canadienne existe bel et bien.”*

Le Monde de Demain

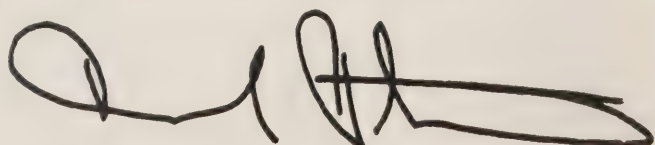
Où sont les Canadiens? D'aucuns, et non des moins sérieux, disent que pareille espèce n'existe pas, ajoutant que nous sommes un pays trop jeune pour posséder un caractère national. Ne leur en déplaise, je pense pour ma part que l'identité Canadienne existe bel et bien, si on en juge par notre capacité à rassembler de façon harmonieuse des éléments fort disparates.

Cette capacité a pris naissance voici cent vingt années, lorsqu'à Charlottetown, sans la moindre violence ni effusion de sang, les Anglais et les Français choisirent la fédération, et donc la coexistence culturelle. Le consensus réalisé en 1987 sur l'accord du lac Meech a réaffirmé cet esprit d'unité. De 1967 à 1987, du biculturalisme au multiculturalisme, l'essence même de notre société et notre Constitution a toujours été la conciliation, la fraternité et le rapprochement.

La mosaïque des cultures et des langues du Canada semble refléter le monde tout entier. Mieux encore, je pense que notre pays incarne une promesse et un espoir communs à l'humanité: il apporte la preuve que tous les peuples, quelle que soit leur culture, peuvent non seulement cohabiter en paix, mais fonder une communauté féconde sur la base de valeurs communes à l'ensemble de la race humaine.

Oui, les Canadiens ont une identité qui, en continuant à évoluer et à s'épanouir, nous montre comment parvenir à un monde meilleur.

Je m'estime très heureux d'appartenir à cette belle nation et de vivre l'expérience vitale que nous, Canadiens, avons entreprise: de démontrer que l'harmonie dans la diversité est possible et que la coopération peut faire des merveilles.



Bob Rae
Leader,
New Democratic Party Of
Ontario

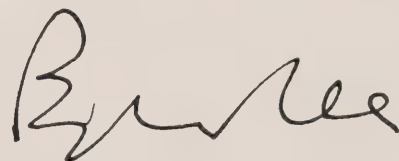
*... I have a vision and a hope that my
children be honest and responsible citizens.*

Honesty And Responsibility

The Canadian Citizenship Act of 1947 was indeed an extremely important milestone in Canadian history. An Act in which all Canadians, by birth or adoption, take pride in that people who chose to make their homes in Canada, are able to exercise full responsibility and to participate fully in the life of their country.

As a parent, I have a vision and a hope that my children be honest and responsible citizens. This too would be my hope for any Canadian citizen.

Further, I do believe a citizen should feel at home in his/her country. That he/she has a responsibility in as far as possible, to ensure that his/her country is a decent place for all citizens to live. That all citizens be treated with dignity, justice, fairness and equality, and protected from any system, policy, or person which may attempt to erode these rights.



Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister Of Canada

Citizenship . . . more of a quality than a stature.

A Tolerant, Compassionate Society

The year 1987 marks an important milestone in the history of Canada, the 40th anniversary of the proclamation of the Citizenship Act of 1947, whereby we, as citizens of Canada, gained the right to call ourselves Canadians.

Citizenship is often interpreted vaguely, implying more of a quality than a stature. For most, citizenship means actively contributing to the programs and institutions which comprise a nation, as well as sharing in its vision for the future.

In Canada, we have been blessed with a land which is bountiful, a society which is tolerant and compassionate, and a people whose industriousness and ingenuity have served to define our nationhood. It is incumbent upon each and every one of us to enhance, promote and protect that which we have been granted through the process of citizenship.

Earlier this year, the Parliament of Canada declared the first National Citizenship Week. In so doing, it declared that Canadian citizenship expects a knowledge and understanding of different peoples, cultures, histories, official languages and symbols of Canada, and of the way it is governed, so that all may share and fully participate in the affairs of a nation. I encourage that an active participation on the part of all Canadians to be taken to help achieve this important goal.



Brian Mulroney
Premier Ministre du Canada

*Être “citoyens” d’un pays . . . plus une qualité
qu’un état.*

. . . une société ouverte et compatissante . . .

L’année 1987 marque un événement spécial dans l’histoire du Canada, soit le 40^e anniversaire de la sanction de la *Loi sur la citoyenneté canadienne*, par laquelle les citoyens du Canada ont obtenu le droit de s’appeler Canadiens.

Être “citoyens” d’un pays est souvent interprété de façon vague et très générale, reflétant plus une qualité qu’un état. Pour plusieurs, cela signifie contribuer activement aux programmes et aux institutions qui composent la nation et partager des idéaux communs.

Au Canada, nous avons la bonne fortune de posséder une terre féconde, de vivre au sein d’une société ouverte et compatissante, qui tire sa fierté de son peuple vaillant et ingénieux. C’est à chacun de nous qu’il revient d’améliorer, de promouvoir et de protéger ce qui est nôtre par nôtre appartenance à ce beau et grand pays, le Canada.

En 1987, le Parlement proclamait la première Semaine nationale de la citoyenneté. Ce faisant, il affirmait que la citoyenneté canadienne implique pour chacun et chacune de connaître et de comprendre les diverses communautés du Canada, leurs cultures et leurs traditions, de même que les langues officielles et les symboles du pays ainsi que son mode de gouvernement, afin d’être en mesure de participer pleinement aux affaires de la nation. J’encourage donc tous les Canadiens à oeuvrer dans cette voie.



John Turner
Leader Of The Opposition

*We have fostered a community that has no
strangers . . . We are all minorities and
we are all equal.*

A Nation Measured By Its Dreams

Canada is blessed with an abundant heritage and a progressive, compassionate and tolerant people.

Ours is a youthful and dynamic country that has held its door open to the world. Uprooted by history and circumstance, people have come from every corner of the world to join in building a unique society and a vigorous new nation.

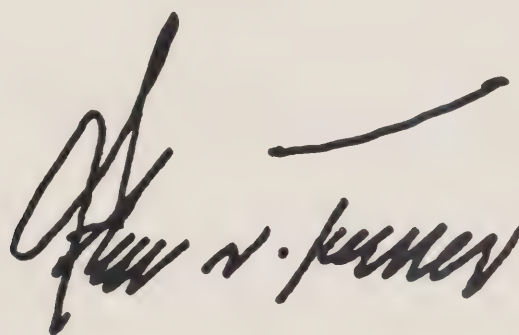
Each of us has a cherished link with the land from which our ancestors came that gives us a special consideration for the peoples of the world. This legacy has earned Canadians enormous respect and goodwill.

At home, our diversity has enriched our society, and is the foundation of our strength and greatness. We have fostered a community that has no strangers. We do not have a majority and a minority in this country. We are all minorities and we are all equal.

Canadians should take pride in our people and our accomplishments. Ours is a tale of courage, perseverance and hard work. It is also a tale of new hopes and promises.

A nation can be measured by its dreams. As Canadian citizens, it is our responsibility to ensure that our descendants inherit a society that is peaceful, prosperous, and secure; a world that is better than when we entered it, and a country in which future generations will have the freedom and opportunity to realize their own talents and pursue their own dreams.

There is an unspoken pride that comes from being Canadian, and I believe that pride comes from the knowledge that our dreams, and our children's dreams, will be so amply fulfilled.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter J. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

John Turner
Chef De L'Opposition

À L'occasion Du Quarantième Anniversaire

De La Citoyenneté Canadienne

Nous, Canadiens, sommes des gens privilégiés à de nombreux égards. Nous possédons d'abondantes richesses, et nous sommes un peuple progressiste, altruiste et tolérant,

Pays jeune et dynamique, le Canada a su garder ses portes ouvertes au reste du monde. Des gens de tous les coins du globe, obligés par l'histoire ou les circonstances à quitter leur pays d'origine, sont venus nous aider à bâtir ici une société unique et vigoureuse.

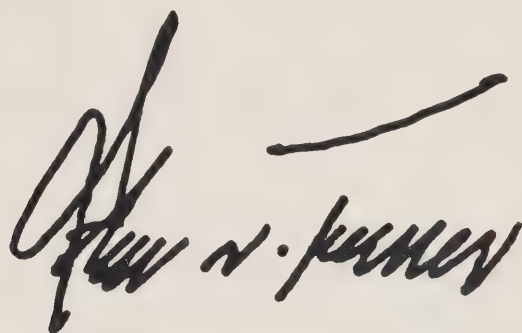
Comme nous conservons tous des attaches avec la patrie de nos ancêtres, nous respectons naturellement tous les peuples de la terre, ce qui nous vaut énormément d'amitié et de considération partout dans le monde.

Notre diversité est par ailleurs une source d'enrichissement pour notre société, en même temps que la pierre angulaire de notre force et de notre prestige. Le fait est qu'il n'existe pas de majorité chez nous. Nous formons tous des groupes minoritaires égaux entre eux.

Comme citoyens canadiens, nous avons toutes les raisons d'être fiers de notre pays et de ses réalisations. Notre histoire traduit le courage, la persévérance et le labeur de nos pionniers. Elle est aussi faite d'espoir et de promesses.

Tous ces privilèges ne vont pas sans responsabilités. Ainsi, il nous incombe de travailler pour améliorer le monde actuel et léguer à nos descendants un pays prospère, où régneront la paix et la sécurité et où les générations futures pourront s'épanouir et réaliser leurs ambitions en toute liberté.

Être Canadien, être Canadienne, c'est avoir l'assurance de voir nos rêves et ceux de nos enfants devenir largement réalité. Voilà un autre fait dont nous pouvons tous tirer une grande fierté.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean R. Fournier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the name.

Ed Broadbent

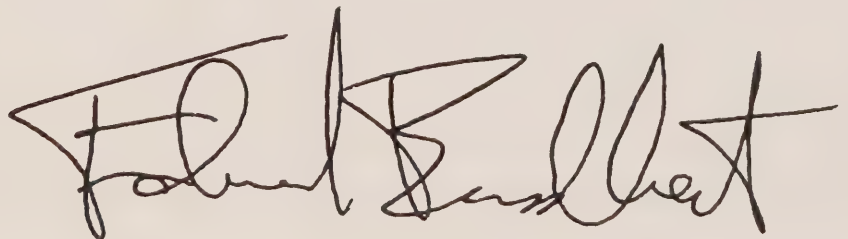
Leader,
New Democratic Party Of
Canada

*Richness in our diversity . . . We see frank
and open discussion, and sometimes dissent, as
a responsibility of the citizen.*

Richness In Our Diversity

This anniversary should allow all Canadians to reflect on the very particular qualities of citizenship as it has been defined by the Canadian experience. These qualities are often subtle but are profound. While some nations may see citizenship as a requirement for simple loyalty to the state, we see frank and open discussion, and sometimes dissent, as a responsibility of the citizen. Where elsewhere citizenship may be marked by cultural oneness, we find richness in our diversity. Where elsewhere the struggles within a nation are too often painful, we have devised our own way of staying together and yet keeping our regional identities.

These particularly Canadian qualities of the concept of citizenship are not easy to attain and we have had our setbacks. But we have also enjoyed remarkable successes and this anniversary provides a very fitting occasion to measure those successes which will encourage us to go on in pursuit of our very special goal as a nation.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ed Broadbent". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a long, horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

W.H. Arthurs

President,
York University

*It is our special contribution to the world that
we have shown that it is possible to possess a
citizenship which is valued highly without a national
consensus . . . even a national identity*

Shared Commitments

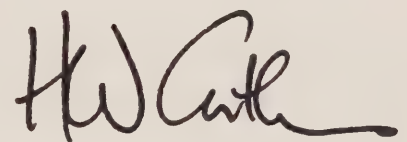
The notion of Canadian citizenship, now forty years old, is both negative and positive.

On the negative side, a distinctive Canadian citizenship showed to ourselves and to the world that we were no longer a simply special species of British subjects, but something quite distinctive: the citizens of a sovereign state with its own place in the world.

On the positive side, the notion of citizenship is that those of us who identify ourselves permanently as Canadians share certain commitments: we inhabit a particular land mass, we engage in a distinctive political process, we participate in a range of shared social and economic relationships, and we intend to continue to do all of these things as members of a nation state and community.

But in these large, positive commitments, there is almost boundless opportunity for diversity, even disagreement. We speak two official languages and scores of others; we worship many gods and none; we vote across the political spectrum; we value high culture and low culture; we have large or little means and prospects which vary according to our personal talents and circumstances, our education and region, our inclinations and opportunities. We even have very different notions of what it means to be a Canadian: about what Canada should be and how it should achieve whatever national goals we may agree upon.

Personally, I would have it no other way. For me, it is this diversity, this freedom to disagree, which makes Canada one of the most attractive places in the world. I would not like to see us adopt tests and oaths and coercive symbols of our nationality. It is our special contribution to the world that we have shown that it is possible to possess a citizenship which is valued highly without a national consensus, national ambition, national might, even a national identity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H.W. Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

D.G. Baker

Director, Continuing Education
Hamilton Board Of Education

*I believe that the citizens of Canada . . . have
an opportunity to influence the direction
and evolution of our Canadian way of life.*

Freedom Of Lifestyle

It is very difficult to be specific because there is no stereotype of a Canadian citizen. This fact has made it possible for so many different ethnic people to live, work and coexist in harmony.

There is not the pressure for conformity which, I believe exists in many countries. There is instead a healthy respect for the unique qualities and customs which are brought to our country from other countries.

Citizens of Canada have great freedom to adopt whatever lifestyle they choose. Because of that freedom of choice there is not the racial tension which would surely exist if our citizens felt coerced to become "Canadianized".

I believe that the citizens of Canada, from whatever national heritage, feel that they have an opportunity to influence the direction and evolution of our Canadian way of life.



*We . . . believe that there are very pronounced
and strong elements to the 'typical' Canadian citizen.*

Freedom To Enjoy . . .

The writer is a convinced Christian, yet has the most profound respect for others of differing views. We do not wish to speak either in platitudes yet firmly believe that there are very pronounced and strong elements to the 'typical' Canadian citizen. So here goes. . .

The Canadian has freedom to enjoy a great land
to enjoy a good standard of living
to enjoy worship and politics of one's own choice
to enjoy the fruits of hard work

Each step in freedom however requires a corresponding step in responsibility and therefore a Canadian citizen

- will not abuse the great natural heritage of water, forest, lands and beauty we enjoy, but will foster their wise use and development.
- will exercise discretion in his way of life that will pass on to future generations the opportunity to also enjoy a decent standard of living.
- will support those institutions and organizations of his choice that will guarantee the maintenance and development in our community of god centred worship and god fearing community leaders, with fair play for all citizens.

Attributes and characteristics: The average Canadian will

- work hard for the good of his family and community, but the work will not be an end in itself; it is to support the citizen and his community in his/her chosen way of life.

- while treasuring his own heritage, including cultural and ethnic background, is keenly aware that others of differing origins should have the same prerogative.
- while expecting reasonable leadership from government in social assistance of various kinds, remains committed to primarily being responsible in the long run for his own and his family's welfare.
- while probably considered conservative (small 'c') by many peoples, the Canadian citizen is willing to commit himself to tasks needful for the common wealth of Canada and other lands, e.g. the need to foster indigenous industries at all levels; the need for equalization payments for all parts of the country's development; the need for fair social legislation and taxes in our country; the need to support and aid in many forms to developing nations.

W. H. G. G. G.

Perrin Beatty
Minister Of National Defense

*... many of our obligations as citizens are
moral and not legal responsibilities ...*

The Burdens Of Citizenship Change

I am pleased to enclose a copy of a speech I once gave, entitled “The Challenge of Citizenship”. The views I expressed at that time still reflect my opinion today on what Canadian citizenship is all about.

... Most of us think we know what citizenship implies, but we don’t spend a great deal of time talking about it. Usually, we talk in terms of our rights.

Last year, for example, Her Majesty the Queen proclaimed amendments to our constitution that included a new Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Charter is an important document, but it does not provide a definitive statement of what our citizenship means.

There is no comparable Charter of Responsibilities. Because many of our obligations as citizens are moral and not legal responsibilities, we will never find such a document in the Constitution ...

Our most basic civic responsibilities are easy to list: to vote in elections, to defend the country in time of war, to pay taxes, and to obey the law. But that list describes only part of the skeleton underlying citizenship ...

We have other responsibilities that are at least as important, but which are too often overlooked. In a time when we have been conditioned to demand our rights and to expect that all of our desires will be quickly satisfied, words like “duty”, “honour” and “patriotism” have a curiously old-fashioned sound to them. When they are used in our presence, we are apt to feel awkward and uncomfortable. . .

Let’s look for a minute at some of our obligations that go well beyond those basic standards ...

First, there is the need to strive for excellence . . .

Secondly, there is the need to develop a code of standards and to live by those standards. That means having enough confidence in your own beliefs that you're prepared to swim against the stream . . .

A third key requirement is to accept that, as individuals, each one of us has a stake in the welfare of others . . .

A fourth responsibility is to respect the rights of other people. No government can legislate good will, but, without tolerance and understanding, a society as diverse and free as Canada's cannot survive . . .

Fifth, we have a responsibility to be informed about public affairs and to be involved . . .

The burdens of citizenship change. A young Canadian in 1983 faces a very different type of obligation than that which confronted people your age forty years ago. What was demanded then was to serve our country in war.

Such a sacrifice is not being asked of the present generation . . . But, in some ways our obligations today are more difficult . . .

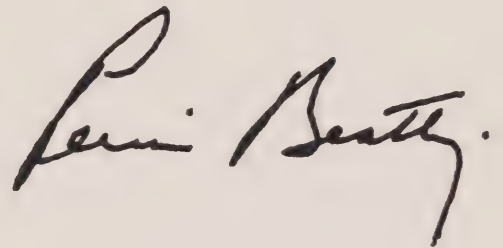
The demands of citizenship in times of peace and relative prosperity are far less obvious. We tend to take our liberties and our democratic institutions for granted, just as we do our health or a clean environment, until something threatens to take them away . . .

When we talk about citizenship in its fullest sense, we can't do it without mentioning those words "duty", "honour" and "patriotism", that we decided earlier had a faintly archaic ring to them. Those are the values that make us want to put as much back into society as we are drawing out of it . . .

1983 is not a time when it is easy to be generous. When the difficulties in even finding a job or paying the weekly bills become as great as they are today, the temptation is always to worry about the immediate problems and to let other people fend for themselves. . .

If your education serves you well, you will not succumb to that temptation. Instead, you will recognise that the satisfaction we draw out of life is directly related to the effort we put into it.

The challenge ahead of you is to leave your country better for the fact that you have lived in it. In the end, perhaps that's really what we are trying to say when we talk about what citizenship means.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pemi Beatty." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'P' and a trailing period.

Claude Bennett
MPP, Ottawa South (P.C.)

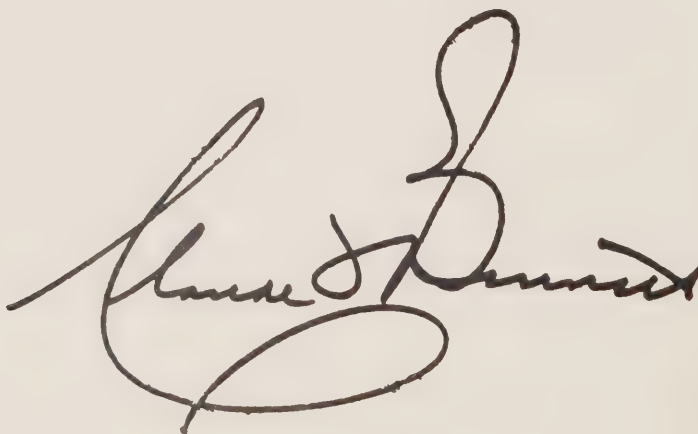
*I feel that the choices each individual
makes through life are reflected in
the diversity apparent in everyday encounters.*

Responsibility The Key

Other than technically qualifying as a Canadian, I feel that the individual is prepared to abide within the existing framework of the country, enjoying both its freedoms and its responsibilities equally. The individual should not expect any special treatment, but should be prepared to assume full responsibility for success, or should it so occur, failure.

The individual should remember that although personal identity is to be cherished and preserved, it is not to be done so at the expense of the country. In other words, the individual is a Canadian and should strive for a unified country which can glory in its many different peoples, but is strong in its purpose as a whole.

The kind of contribution made in life is as unique as the individual concerned, therefore I would never suggest that each individual should make a specific contribution. Rather, I feel that the choices each individual makes through life are reflected in the diversity apparent in everyday encounters. Opportunities abound: the choice of the opportunity belongs to the individual. But, as I mentioned earlier, responsibility is the key.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Claude Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Shirley Bentall
President
Canadian Baptist Federation

*A Canadian Citizen Is One Who Has The Enviably
Guarantees Of The
Canadian Charter Of Freedoms And Rights*

*Diversity Of Landscape, Culture,
Opportunities*

The answer that comes most readily to the question of “What is a Canadian Citizen?” is that he or she is a person who has the privilege of living and *belonging* in this great country which offers such diversity, not only of landscape, but of cultural backgrounds and opportunities for future development, both individually and as a nation. A Canadian citizen is one who has the enviable guarantees of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, subject only “to reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.”

I believe that Canadian citizens should have a basic, profound appreciation of belonging in a country which affirms such a charter, even though it is, as yet, imperfectly enforced, with numerous issues of social justice still to be resolved, and with the continual testing in the courts of the applicability of some of the stated rights in specific situations.

I would like to see Canadian citizens becoming more conscious, not only of their rights, but of their responsibilities in a world where millions of people are homeless and hungry, and where there are still disadvantaged persons in our own land. I would like to see Canadians becoming increasingly aware of the costs of irresponsibility—(e.g. of drunken driving, drug addiction, crime, any form of exploitation of others and the unrestrained pursuit of pleasure). And I would like to see Canadians acting with integrity on all levels of public (as well as private) life, conscious that our country “is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law.”

My hope is that in Canada we may do some things better in the future than in the past, encouraging confidence in, and commitment to that future, especially on the part of young people, so they may bring their natural enthusiasm and healthy attitudes to the building of our country.

Shirley Bentall

David R. Bloom
Chairman & Past President
Shoppers' Drug Mart

One of the most striking things about Canadian citizenship is that it doesn't imply this identification with a single cultural heritage or place of origin.

A Citizenship Of The Future

What does Canadian citizenship mean to me?

As a native of Toronto, citizenship was acquired as part of my birthright. I grew up surrounded, however, by people for whom Canadian citizenship was the hard-won reward of years of struggle as immigrants. This led me to view citizenship as something special.

Citizenship was born, as a concept, with the idea of a participatory, democratic, state. Since states were set up on territories in which people shared a single language and culture, citizenship tended to be identified with a common nationality, cultural background and language.

One of the most striking things about Canadian citizenship is that it doesn't imply this identification with a single cultural heritage or place of origin. The pluralism of languages and heritages is enshrined in the very essence of our nationhood; from the Native Peoples, through the French and English settlers, to the latest immigrant fresh off the boat, we all come from somewhere else, or can trace our ancestry to some other place.

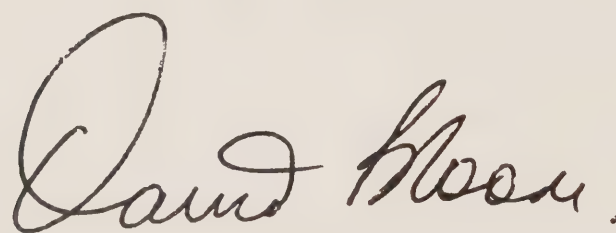
Each country has a different way of viewing citizenship. I believe there are at least two kinds of citizenships in the world, and people view them differently. Some nations view citizenship as something that comes with the territory; as a verification of what already exists, an extension of their natural rights. These citizenships were often wrought in the fires of external domination or world conflict, and therefore are felt to be exclusive of "foreigners". These are citizenships of the past.

I like to think of Canadian citizenship as a citizenship of the future. It is not attached to a single cultural background or heritage, but to many. Even more, it is precisely this idea of unity through diversity that is at the very heart of Canadian citizenship. No matter where you come from, what language you speak, or how you dress, you will find a home in this gathering of peoples that is Canada.

A Canadian citizen is defined by more than a piece of paper or a place of origin. In fact, when I think of what it is to be a Canadian, these become less than insignificant. People and community are more what being a Canadian is all about, but above all, I believe being Canadian is a choice. We are a nation of people who, coming from far and wide, have chosen to live here together in peace, harmony and with respect for each other's rights.

This idea of people from all over the world coming together by choice to form a common nation, Canada, is what marks this nation and its citizenship as a thing of the future, built upon a multiplicity of pasts.

If we look at ourselves from the outside, we quickly see that this is the uniqueness of the Canadian identity: a multiplicity of people in a common community. As I look around me, I can see this trait reflected within our own company, Shoppers' Drug Mart.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Bloom." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.

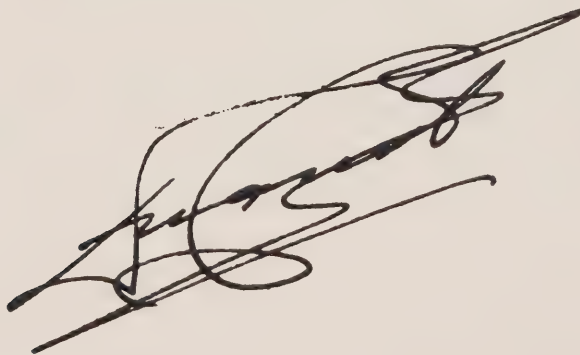
Andrew S. Brandt

MPP, Sarnia (P.C.)

*... Someone who brings the best to this
country and proceeds to invest their talents and
abilities to build a better Canada.*

Tolerant And Appreciative Of Differences

A “Canadian citizen” is someone who deeply appreciates the freedom and the opportunities made possible in the Canadian way of life. It is someone who is tolerant and appreciative of the differences in religion, culture, and ethnic backgrounds of the various peoples who make up Canada. It is someone who brings the best to this country and proceeds to invest their talents and abilities to build a better Canada. It is someone who although retaining a love and appreciation for one’s former homeland, willingly assumes the challenge and responsibility of becoming part of a new society and a new homeland.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Brandt", written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Wayne F.J. Busch

President
Georgian College, Barrie

*... this influx of foreigners, together with the
native people, is what makes Canada so unique.*

Just The Beginning

After discussion with new Canadians, second, third and fourth generation Canadians and those who have not yet received citizenship, the following positive factors emerged.

Without exception, they thought Canada was the best place in the world in which to live. In no other country could they live so peacefully, so safely and have such a high standard of living.

Most were Monarchists and all felt that Canadians were not as pushy as the Americans, nor as formal as the English.

Most immigrants to Canada come to improve their lot in life and this influx of foreigners, together with the native people, is what makes Canada so unique.

This is just the beginning, though, for Canada is not fully formed yet. As the different races weld together, probably with thousands more Orientals as Hong Kong reverts to its own government, a different Canada will emerge. A Canada that will continue to change as a kaleidoscope changes.

The rights of Canadians are some of the most libertarian in the world; the right to free speech and the right to criticize the Government, having just elected that Government, being the most significant.

The Human Rights Act is so encompassing that everyone can now feel that justice can be done, although there is much work to be done to see that the poor and needy are able to take advantage of the provisions of the Act.

Each of us is but a tenant in this lovely country and we have the responsibility to cherish it, to improve it and to leave it better as a legacy to those coming after us.

Wayne Dusch

R.N. Chalmers

Associate Director Of Education
Peel Board Of Education

*Canadian citizenship ought to reflect a wide
variety of uniquely Canadian experiences and commitments.*

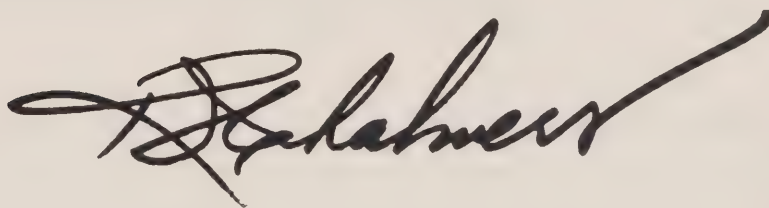
An Old Land, A Young Nation

In my view, it is necessary to address the question from two perspectives:

- at a foundation level, a Canadian citizen is a person who has met the requirements for admission to this country as an immigrant or who was born in this country. Implicit in this basic requirement is the notion that each person who enjoys the status of citizenship will be acknowledged by the state as a citizen with full rights and responsibilities and will, in turn, commit themselves to supporting the democratic, constitutional processes by which Canada is governed.
- in an extended way, Canadian citizenship ought to reflect a wide variety of uniquely Canadian experiences and commitments. While individuals might not care to see each of these reflected in their lives, I believe these are values and experiences which enhance that basic status of citizenship. In no particular order, these include an experience of the diverse geography of this nation; ideally, there will be a love of this land. There is a tolerance of diversity and a commitment to debate as an instrument of problem-solving which has left this country relatively free of violence. There is a recognition that this is both a bilingual and a multicultural country. There is an understanding that communities create the state, rather than the reverse. There is a recognition that this country, while capable of defending itself and contributing to the defense of democracy, is not a military state; indeed, there may be a suspicion of the military, until it is needed.

Canada is an old land, in geographic terms but a young nation, in cultural terms. Above all, as it develops and grows, it is a country characterized by civility and mutual respect among its citizens.

One could go on. I believe we are a highly productive nation, given our meagre population. Above all, we are optimists and fierce in our quiet pride at our ability to shape history, slowly and patiently.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Schabner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "F" and a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

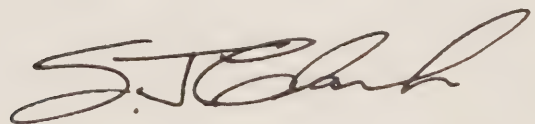
S.J. Clark
Mayor,
City Of Brockville

*I was very moved and learned first hand by
speaking to new Canadians their joy and happiness
on this special ocasion in their lives.*

The Best Calling Card

As a teenager I may not have realized the rights and privileges that I had by being a Canadian by birth. I have learned a vast amount of information since becoming an elected official and one of my experiences directly related to Canadian citizenship. Very early in my first term of office, I was invited to a Citizenship Court Ceremony. I was very moved and learned first hand by speaking to new Canadians their joy and happiness on this special occasion in their lives. Being a Canadian is something that I appreciate just as much as those new Canadians I meet at the Citizenship Court Ceremonies, in our Council Chambers at City Hall.

Canadians should be proud of the rights and privileges that we are allowed. Also when travelling to other countries we should be confident that we have the world's best calling card - a Canadian passport.



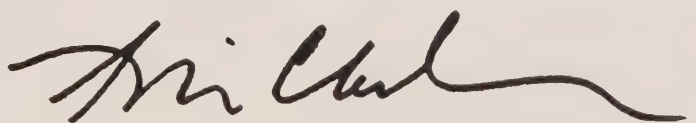
Adrienne Clarkson

President & Publisher
McClelland & Stewart

*... being a Canadian is being a citizen of
the best country in the world.*

We Have It So Good Here

It means a great deal to me as we became citizens by an Order in Council of Canadian Parliament in 1949 because we were Chinese and had no relatives in the country. I consider it particularly precious because so much of Canadian history and attitude has changed in those 40 years - all to the good. I don't have much time at present to contemplate on what Canadian Citizenship means to me but I can say that it probably means that being a Canadian is being a citizen of the best country in the world; it's just a shame that we don't seem to realize it until we go abroad. I think also, immigrants tend to appreciate Canadian Citizenship much more than native born Canadians and that sometimes we are impatient with the smugness and the feeling that we have it so good here and a kind of unwillingness to blow our own horn.



Alex Colville

Chancellor
Acadia University

*... in Canada it is possible to belong both to
the country as a whole and at the same time
to a unique segment of it ...*

My Canada

Some years ago I wrote a short piece for a book called “My Canada” which expresses whatever thoughts I have about the country.

Choice for a Lifetime

In 1967, my wife and I moved to California for a year. I was a kind of visiting artist at the University of California at Santa Cruz. The university was very good, we had many friends, we lived in an award-winning building, the salary was generous. At the end of the year, the provost of the college of which I was a fellow pressed me to stay on; he was a man I liked and respected. I mention this because for the first time in my life I had to seriously consider not being a Canadian.

I decided to return to Canada. In trying to explain my decision, I told the provost that for him (an Englishman who had taught for years, first at Cal. Tech., then at Harvard), it was easy to move from one cosmopolitan milieu to another - in a sense he was a world citizen. But for a Canadian (as, I think, for an Israeli, a Swede, a Swiss), the change would be from a micro culture to a macro culture. My point was that a citizen in a smaller nation has a kind of national feeling that is perhaps essentially provincial; this word has, for me, more good than bad connotations.

I remember thinking at the time of other qualities of Canada that I valued: Canada is less coherent than the U.S., less of a melting pot, more a “community of communities”. Thus in Canada it is possible to belong both to the country as a whole and at the same time to a unique segment of it, as I belong in particular to the Maritimes.

Canada is also a developing country - in a sense an underdeveloped country. Its future is likely to be greater than its past, and I prefer to live in a country that is still labouring to form its culture.

I believe Canada is essentially a conservative country, cautious about preserving what values it has from its past, with a strong sense of order, an absence of recklessness. We are fortunate, I think, to have the U.S. as a neighbour because, while we share many qualities, we can better realize our uniqueness by comparing ourselves with our great neighbour, we *are* different, and I like the differences.

May 1966

G.E. Connell
President
University Of Toronto

*Canadians are known by others as a 'fair-minded'
people . . . (because) of our ability to live in harmony as
one national family representing countless numbers of ethnic
origins.*

Diversity And Social Equality

What Is A Canadian Citizen?

Two factors are at the heart of what it means to be a Canadian: diversity and social equity.

Canadians are known by others as a “fair-minded” people. One of the principal reasons for this is our ability to live in harmony as one national family representing countless numbers of ethnic origins.

Canada’s heritage is one of different cultures, languages, literature, art and folk ways. Our universities not only reflect Canada’s vibrant diversity, but have had a hand in shaping it. They are responsible for bringing many peoples from abroad as faculty and students. They also provide opportunities to members of minority groups who, were it not for accessible university education, might not otherwise be able to offer their full potential to Canadian society.

Our universities are intellectual mixing places where elements of our nation come together and in turn link us to the rest of the world. They are also centres of opportunity for the personal development and intellectual enrichment of Canadians. As such, they contribute to the other central factor in our national psyche: our commitment to social equity.

The most powerful and consistent theme in Canadian politics in the 20th century has been social equity. Over the years, Canadians have committed themselves to many policies and programs to ensure that no Canadian need be indigent or beyond help.

The history and attitudes that call forth such policies are deeply ingrained in our national psyche. They are attitudes that help make Canada a pleasant place to live. We have a disposition to help our less fortunate neighbours; we want to see sick people receive good health care; we seek to provide aid for the victims of natural disasters; we want to take in refugees and get them started on a new life.

The quest for equity continues as our society evolves and changes. Women, native peoples and other ethnic minorities have struggled for rights and have moved into leadership positions in many sectors of society. More needs to be done.

As Canadians, we strive for achievement as well as equity. Increasingly we recognize that knowledge, creative ability and good judgment are our most important national resources. By combining excellence with our commitment to equity and diversity, all Canadians can work together to affirm our common values and strengthen our opportunities for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "G. E. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Bill Conrod
Vice-President
Algonquin College

*A Canadian citizen has a sense of purpose
and a clear understanding of their role. . .*

A Continually Improving Person

What is a Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian citizen is a free person who can read and write at least one of the two official languages of French and English and who, hopefully, is working on a degree of functionality in the other. (S)he has been taught the systems of government (municipal, regional, provincial and federal) in Canada and understands the party system and how an individual joins the political process.

A Canadian citizen has a sense of purpose and a clear understanding of their role in family, neighbourhood, community, and state. Within this understanding is the knowledge of what is unlawful behaviour between citizens and where one goes to address wrongs.

A Canadian citizen is a person who is continually improving via observation, listening, reading, discussing, training and education.

A Canadian citizen understands our economic system and plays a role in it. Citizens who wish to work should be able to look to their government to help them train for employment or move to existing employment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bill Conrod". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Counsell
Mayor, City Of Guelph

*There isn't such a thing as
an average Canadian.*

Compromise

What is a Canadian Citizen?

In 1987 a Canadian citizen might, in terms of background, be any person from a Tamil refugee who came in a lifeboat to a seventh generation descendant from pioneer Highland Scotts whose soul still thrills to the skirl of the bagpipes.

There isn't such a thing as an average Canadian. People are defined by their history, their culture and their circumstances. Canadians, with their diverse backgrounds, cannot be defined together as "average."

Perhaps there never has been an "average Canadian". The aboriginal Iroquois were totally unlike the Haida who were different from the Blackfeet or the Hurons. Genes and geography have inevitable consequences.

Early generations of immigrant Canadians did establish a world reputation. Symbolized by the Maple Leaf and the Mountie, they were internationally recognized as fine soldiers, sailors and fliers, tough hockey players, superb nurses and doctors, and producers of the world's best wheat, timber, bacon and furs. It was the traditional view based, of course, on some degree of truth. The Canadians had to be tough to withstand the circumstances of their renowned climate. But they were law-abiding as well as resourceful. The enemy in Canada was never the gun-slinger at High Noon but always the winter cold, the eternal snows and ice, the mountains, muskeg and forest.

The Canadian had to learn to compromise with Nature in order to exist. Confrontation with the wilderness never works.

The national characteristic developed as a civilized form of compromise in politics, statesmanship, business and industry. The intermediate way of doing things became a peculiarly Canadian attribute. It led to the 1980's joke of "Question:- why did the Canadian cross the road? Answer:- to get to the middle!"

But it was successful. Canadians enjoyed international trust as peace-makers with no territorial ambitions and a willingness to help others. The Canadian Parliament and courts of law are a compromise between the British and the U.S. models. The Canadian citizen is a compromise between the U.S. desire to have free choice in everything, regardless of cost, and the European reserve of "it's always been done this way, so. . .".

The nation is a rare compromise between capitalism and socialism. If there was a national need that private enterprise could not fulfill, in transportation or communications or marketing or energy, Canadians had no hesitancy about setting up a nationalised system to run it for the benefit of the people. The Canadians, in their own generations, have succeeded in everything that had to be done at that time.

The land, in early days, needed people who were good farmers, fishermen, lumberjacks, stonemasons and builders. It got them - together with the pioneering women who established the stable home life, which, with church and school, has always characterized Canada.

The pioneers had no time for the "frills." They had to carve out a livelihood from the bush, the sea and the prairies. When the world went to war the Canadians again succeeded; winning battle honours in a filthy business that was alien to them but necessary for democracy's survival, as they saw it in their day.

They adopted and survived the Dirty Thirties when the Great Depression, drought and locusts, ravaged the land.

When the need arose to mechanize and industrialize to become an arsenal for the free world, in the early 1940's, Canada achieved world stature as a great manufacturing nation probably faster and with fewer problems than any other nation before or since.

Another New Wave of people, destined to become Canadian citizens, came after World War II ended. They brought with them skills and talent in the arts the pioneers had never had time to master - the theatre, ballet, music, literature, fine dining, communications, and so on.

The Canadian citizens were again remarkably successful in adapting a distinctly Canadian cultural expansion in a very short time. Now they produce their own Canadian “stars” of international renown in all the arts.

The 1980’s has produced change on a global scale at an even faster pace. And the Canadians are in the forefront again. They have forged ahead in the electronic world of computers, communications and space equipment.

The historical record of Canadians is first class.

Are all the Canadian characteristics good ones? No, of course not! Nobody is perfect, least of all an “average Citizen”. Canadians, as yet, do not know fully how to participate in the extraordinary wide fields of endeavor now open to them. The next generation undoubtedly will; the children now take their theatres, galleries and ballet for granted.

Too often the “home team” of the average Canadian is a composite of highly paid imported sports professionals - the 20th Century stateless gladiators. Where is the true pride in watching “our team” of imports on a television set? What other country in the world listens to sports results of a neighboring nation as its major news? This may, of course, be the Global Village way of the future.

Who can be proud of the violence and legal controversies that blacken professional sports in Canada? The average Canadian has always worked hard and played hard but the “tough” sports image of violence and lack of discipline has gone too far.

Yet, occasionally, the Canadians are not tough enough. The average Canadian does not like spending tax money to defend the nation. The average Canadian does not become violent enough with polluters - domestic and foreign - who foul the air, the land and the water. The average Canadian does not, as yet, demand higher cultural standards for television or literature or more ethical standards from the media.

Possibly the most significant aspect of Canadian citizenship in 1987 is that the average Canadian may be coming to realize that, together with all the other average Canadians, he or she possesses immense political and social power.

The campaigns against smoking and drinking and driving; the campaigns for day care and pension stability; have been eminently successful. They were carried out by many average Canadians working together.

They may, indeed, mark another “Quiet Canadian Revolution.” The average Canadians may go into the Twenty First Century as leaders in a world movement to ensure that government is by the people and for the people. There are signs that this is an idea whose time has come in Canada. And the “average Canadian” will bring it about.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Laurinelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "John" is written with a large, sweeping initial 'J' that loops around the first part of the name. The last name "Laurinelli" is written in a more straightforward cursive, with the final 'i' having a small loop.

C.A. Cowan

Director Of Education
Scarborough Board Of
Education

*...being a Canadian is to be among people who have
a common destiny and whose individual well being is
assured because of the benefits of democracy.*

Value For Human Life

What is a Canadian Citizen?

The section which follows discusses the evolutionary process out of which today's concept of citizenship has emerged and highlights some examples of the Canadian accommodation to circumstances.

I. BACKGROUND

Citizenship in the Canadian context today has to be considered in relation to this country's political and social evolution since, in reality, the notion of citizenship has changed over time and with circumstances. Different generations of Canadians have had differing ideas about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, about privilege, about the distribution of wealth, and about access to power. The concept of democracy as "the spirit or practice of political, legal and social equality" (Funk and Wagnalls 1980 p.355) has been selectively applied by the inclusion and the exclusion of some groups, as history has shown.

The Oxford Concise Dictionary's (1976) definition of a citizen is "an inhabitant or freeman of a city; a member, native or naturalized, of a state or commonwealth" (p.182). Funk and Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary's (1980) definition states that a citizen is a "native or naturalized person owing allegiance to, and entitled to protection from, a government; a civilian as distinguished from a public officer, soldier" (p.249). Other definitions add new dimensions to our thinking about who is a citizen, as in the first above which limits citizenship to where one is domiciled or the second which extends the meaning to include rights and responsibilities.

Citizenship, in the Canadian context, has evolved over the years to include an ever-increasing variety of nationalities who arrived as a result of various sets of circumstances, and who have come to envisage that being a Canadian is to be among people who have a common destiny and whose individual wellbeing is assured because of the benefits of democracy. This is because, as the society evolved, the definition of individual rights and responsibilities has expanded beyond the narrow and protection for the citizen on the part of the state to include an array of individual rights and freedoms.

1. There is a strong value for freedom and the expectation that this country will be tolerant of the various ways in which people need to express themselves: freedom of speech, of worship; of being able to gather for a variety of causes; of mode of dress and of life style generally. Recent works, such as, *A Day in the Life of Canada* (1984), has captured the essence of much of this variety from a regional and national perspective. At the local level, these variations are quite evident and accepted with increasing tolerance.
2. There is value for human life, the dignity and the worth of the individual. This comes with the expectation that each individual will be able to live and work without fear of discrimination of any kind or form, or the denial of any privileges which the society affords others.

With these values and expectations, the Canadian of the eighties take his/her civic responsibilities seriously and is sensitive to the political and social issues of the day.

1. Political participation is becoming a duty that more people want to fulfil. Whether through voting, joining a party, supporting the candidate or another or expressing opinions on matters of importance, there seems to be a growing awareness and greater involvement on the part of the ordinary citizen in the day to day affairs of the community, the city, and the country at large.
2. Social issues of one variety or another surface and receive the support of a cross-section of people in this society, whether these are environmental or humanitarian; local, national or international concerns, Canadians have been known to respond in person or in kind, generously.

There are, however, unique differences among Canadian citizens: colour of skin, race, and ethnicity, language, habits and customs (foods, mode of dress, beliefs, parenting practices, family ties) are visible features and characteristic modes of self expression which distinguish groups of citizens one from another.

The remarkable feature of Canadian citizenship is the growing tolerance for those differences, increasing participation in various cultural activities and the apparent enjoyment of the rich variety that life has become in this country.

II. A CANADIAN PROFILE

A Canadian citizen is an individual who *values freedom*:

- to make political allegiance;
- to have self-expression in speech or life style;
- to pursue interests;
- to acquire wealth;
- to move about within and without Canada;
- to take risks.

A Canadian citizen is an individual who has a high degree of *respect for authority*:

- observes the laws, if they appear to be fair;
- obeys rules and regulations and expects others to do the same;
- believes in the democratic process.

A Canadian citizen takes his/her *civic responsibility* seriously:

- votes;
- joins political parties;
- takes an interest in governments;
- is proud of Canadian law and order;
- recognizes the need to share.

A Canadian citizen is experiencing a growing *tolerance of differences*:

- of people of other races, colours;
- of ethnic languages;
- of ethnic life styles;
- of supporters of causes.

A Canadian citizen *fears*:

- discrimination;
- authoritarianism;
- loss of power and influence;
- injustice;
- the increasing destruction of the natural beauty of the land and the damage being done to the environment.

III SUMMARY

The Canadian citizen of the future will be an amalgam of the legacy of values and tradition which this generation of citizens leave behind, and those that the next generation see as important to uphold. We would like to think that the young Canadian artists in their work, *Of You and Me - Nous Autres - A Contemporary View of Human Rights* (1977), have captured the essence of what citizenship means by placing the emphasis on equality, brotherhood, and the right to life, liberty and security of person for all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Bowen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "B" being particularly large and stylized.

*Canadians are inclined to give people the ‘benefit of
of the doubt’ and to think the best of people in the
first instance.*

A Gentle People

What is a Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian citizen is a person who views himself or herself as a Canadian first and a member of another group or locality second.

Canadians are a people of “the law” who respect and represent the basic traditions of “western civilization” and yet can appreciate and accommodate the many rich traditions that are being added to the fabric of our land by new Canadians.

Canadians are basically a “gentle” people who respect and care for and about one another. Canadians are inclined to give people the “benefit of the doubt” and to think the best of people in the first instance. Thus we are slow to anger and, therefore, hurt and offended when we are disappointed by others.

Canadians firmly believe in the rights of the individual but recognize that the rights of the individual stop “at the end of the next fellow’s nose”.

Canadians are thought to be somewhat conservative in their approach to change and, perhaps, somewhat liberal in their views regarding human rights. Recently, there are indications that both of these traditional points of view may be changing. Whether this is a good change or not remains to be seen.

Canada and Canadians have come of age regarding their sense of nationhood and self-confidence. In spite of concerns expressed about losing our distinct Canadian identity, Canadians know who and what they are and are in no danger of being swallowed up or engulfed in a cultural flood from our great neighbour to the south. We may not be taken as seriously as we would like to be but there is little likelihood that Canadians need be concerned about becoming the fifty-first state.

A Canadian is someone who is proud of the characteristics and accomplishments of our citizens and our country.

Michael E. Dixon

Registrar, The Royal College Of
Physicians & Surgeons Of
Ontario

*Being a Canadian citizen brings with it rights,
privileges, and opportunities shared by very few nations
and envied by many.*

The Legacy For Future Generations

What is a Canadian Citizen?

Identifying the common characteristics of a Canadian citizen is difficult because, as a nation, we are perhaps best characterized by our diversity. Geographically, culturally, linguistically and, in many other ways, we reflect our diverse origins, which is one of the great strengths of Canada.

While Canadians are often reticent in actively expressing patriotic sentiments, citizens of Canada are as proud of the country's achievements as any nation on earth, and rightly so. Being a Canadian citizen brings with it rights, privileges and opportunities shared by very few nations and envied by many. We have the ability to build and shape our own future, free from the tyranny and oppression that is commonplace in so many parts of the world today. As Canadians, we all have the freedom to live our lives and follow our dreams according to our own values and customs and, in so doing, to build a better life for our children.

Being citizens of a democracy also implies many responsibilities. If we are to preserve the legacy of our ancestors and to build upon this legacy for future generations, we must be diligent in fulfilling these responsibilities. Exercising the right to vote in an intelligent and thoughtful way, standing up for our own rights and those of others in our society, and working to better our communities and our country are important obligations which all Canadians must share.

This year, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Canadian citizenship, I believe we should take time to reflect on all the blessings we share as Canadians, and look for new ways to contribute to and enrich our society in the years ahead.

Michael Dixon

John Eakins

Minister Of Municipal Affairs

*... Our national identity is the diverse nature of our
cultures ... celebrating a heritage reinforces what Ontario
really is*

Part Of The Rainbow

... much of our uniqueness comes from the approach we take toward multiculturalism in Canada and the appreciation of our diversity we have developed over the years.

In a speech I gave to the Indo-Canadian Association of the Kawarthas, I outlined my views on the importance of multiculturalism in our society, and the responsibilities of citizenship.

CITIZENSHIP

Ontario's cultures and heritages come from across the globe, and we can make the province right, if we work together. . .

As Minister for Tourism and Recreation, I know that things labelled as culture, such as theatre, music and dance, are the things tourists come to experience in Ontario. It's the same with recreation . . . what some would call an ordinary folk festival is really much more, it attracts visitors, celebrates a heritage, creates social understanding, and provides recreation. And I think celebrating a heritage reinforces what Ontario really is . . . How many times have you heard it said that Canada is a country in search of an identity? Well, Dr. Munro and I have often discussed this way of thinking, and we have agreed that our national identity *is* the diverse nature of our cultures.

And because of this, one of the things I promoted shortly after taking the position of Minister . . . was to feature our many cultures at Ontario Place. And they have been successful. We have Italian Day, Ukrainian Day, and Indian Day to name just a few. I think it is important that cultural groups be encouraged to demonstrate their heritage — and festivals are a fun way of learning about each other . . .

We can make cultural differences work. We should not force people to divorce themselves from culture, from work, or from religion. Instead, I think we should work toward integration.

The word “integration” is often misunderstood. Some people see it as giving up one’s heritage in favor of the general population. But the real meaning is “to complete by addition of parts, or to combine into a whole”.

Equality for a cultural representative, for a disabled person, for a woman, or for a visible minority, depends on a person’s ability and desire to participate . . .

The responsibility is on our many cultural groups to work for the betterment of Ontario. And the betterment of Ontario is what citizenship is all about. Preservation of heritage cannot be separated from citizenship. They are two sides to the same coin. Rights and responsibility, giving and taking, receiving and contributing . . .

We must remember that we are all citizens of Ontario, regardless of how long our ancestors have been here, or from where they came. My ancestors came from Ireland a long time ago: some people arrived yesterday.

And there has been hardship. There has been adjustment. There has been alienation. But no history of a people is without these things. Time passes and differences are appreciated. And then we all become part of the rainbow.



Jim Flynn

Mayor, Town of Lindsay

*... we are growing more tolerant regardless of class,
race, sex, and ethnic groups.*

Abundance Of Resources

To me, pride in Canadian citizenship is a result of many things and is probably best appreciated by seeing how people outside of Canada react when meeting a Canadian outside of our country.

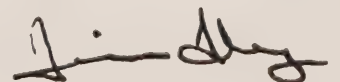
First, I share with Canadians across our land a sense of appreciation that our fellow citizens have contributed to world peace and harmony through World War I, World War II, Korea, the United Nations and the Commonwealth.

I recognize that while Canadians are not perfect, we are growing more tolerant regardless of class, race, sex, and ethnic group.

I believe we Canadians recognize a sense of responsibility for the welfare of all Canadians.

Canadians, I believe, appreciate that equality involves responsibility for law and order.

And finally, we are blessed by the abundance of natural and physical resources which make up our country.



Ben Franklin
Mayor, City Of Nepean

*Canadians are known for their quiet
diplomacy. . .generosity. . .determination. . .standards.*

High Quality Of Life

The Responsibility Of A Canadian Citizen

Canadians of 1987 have a responsibility to protect the very high quality of life which exists largely because of the foresight, determination and courage of our forefathers.

Canadians have a responsibility to uphold this standard to ensure that future generations enjoy the same rights and freedoms.

Canadians are well equipped to meet this responsibility because:

- Canadians are known for their quiet diplomacy.
- Canadians are known for their generosity.
- Canadians are known for their determination.
- Canadians are known for upholding standards.

Most assuredly, Canada and the Canadian image will continue to be as great as the strengths of its people.

Ben Franklin

Evelyn Gigantes
MPP, Ottawa Centre (NDP)

*... our election returning offices in each riding
should be providing special information for new citizens
and a multi-lingual enquiry and assistance service.*

Challenged On Many Fronts

So many of the “responsibilities” we attach to Canadian Citizenship - civility and respect for others; an effort to uphold community peace and good order; an appreciation of democratic institutions; care for the vulnerable older, younger, dependent people in society - so many of these responsibilities can only properly be met when we can fully exercise our individual and group rights to be decently housed, fed, educated and respected ourselves.

When we do not enjoy these rights it is very hard to carry out our citizenship responsibilities. It grieves me that many new Canadian Citizens not only suffer the same lack of rights to basic needs as a large number of other Canadians, but they are further deprived of rights by lack of English skills (in Ontario) and oppressed by racism.

Our fine political parties have not yet produced enough leadership on these elemental matters. That work is only just beginning to be tackled with real will. Let us hope that the process will pick up speed.

One matter that is of special concern to me is that new Canadian citizens, many of whom have good reason to distrust government, are given no encouragement or assistance in understanding the electoral process and being able to participate in it.

The enumeration and voting procedures of Ontario are dismayingly remote for a large number of citizens. I think our election returning offices in each riding should be providing special information for new citizens and a multi-lingual inquiry and assistance service.

I am also concerned that new Canadian Citizens who are women often have even fewer opportunities to enjoy the potential benefits of citizenship than either men or children do. Each of us knows of women who suffer painful social isolation while their husbands and children are able to weave their lives into the larger community life. More and more Canadian “sisters” are becoming aware of a duty to reach out and fight to offer help, but the efforts must be stronger or they will be ignored.

Canada is challenged on many fronts - cultural, economic, social. It is a wonderful country to call home, but we have to understand that home is what we make it, day by day. We have to learn the joy there can be in the efforts we must make.

Ceclyn Gigantes

W.J. Gordon

Director, Administrative Services
The Royal Canadian Legion

*... we are fiercely proud of our country
and our heritage.*

Nice Guy

From the results of a small survey, it would appear that there are probably as many answers to the question as there are Canadians. However, there would appear to be a theme that runs through the various answers which states:

- To an extraordinary degree, we want to be known as a “nice guy” despite the obvious disadvantage this image has in many areas, for example in international negotiations.
- While we claim to have differences in politics, positions and preferences, the majority of us seldom move far from the centre.
- The spirit, initiative and instinct of the pioneer is still very much alive within us which may account for our obvious ability to combine compromise on practically anything with a stubbornness not to be moved beyond a certain point.
- We are certainly egalitarian, democratic, conservative in action and liberal in outlook.
- Although reluctant to say so, we are fiercely proud of our country and our heritage.



Bud Gregory
MPP, Mississauga East (P.C.)

*... Canada's greatest strength is the diversity of the
many peoples ... that call Canada their home.*

A Desire To Share

Canadian Citizenship is something we all should celebrate. I do find it difficult to describe in words what characteristics determine a Canadian Citizen. It is my belief that Canada's greatest strength is the diversity of the many peoples and cultures that call Canada their home. This wide range is unique to our country and something that should be encouraged.

It is for these reasons that I believe a Canadian Citizen is best described by an individual who has a genuine desire to share in, and contribute to everything this country has to offer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bud Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Harris
MPP, Nipissing (P.C.)

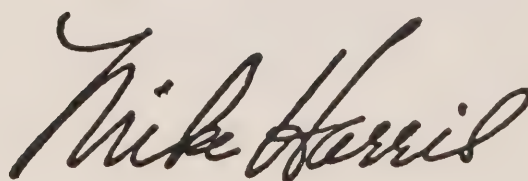
*... each (Canadian citizen) bestows upon this nation
the richness of diversity ...*

Citizens Of The World

To describe one's image of a 'Canadian Citizen', is, in many ways, to provide a description of one's image of Canada itself. For just as Canada is a product of its geography, history, heritage, tradition, society and its culture; so are its people.

Canadians enjoy the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities bestowed upon them by the Dominion of Canada. But each bestows upon this nation the richness of diversity — be it from different communities or regions within our own country, or from other parts of the world. Because of this, Canadians can be considered citizens of the world, building a world-class nation through the common bond of citizenship.

In a country rich in natural resources, people are this nation's most valued resource. This speaks highly of Canada, and higher still of its people. Canada, and Canadian Citizens, understand this democratic principle, and rejoice in this humanitarian spirit as we join together to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Citizenship in Canada.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "M" and "H".

M.M. Hawkrigg

President
London Life

*Canadians are particularly adept
at mediation.*

Honest, Caring, Fair

It is always easier to recognize what we like to think are Canadian characteristics when we look back on our country and its people from outside Canada. Partly, we tend to view Canada in comparison to other countries and the Canadian way of life as opposed to how others live. But out of this emerges what we “are” as much as what we “are not”.

Most Canadians I know tend to have three characteristics:

- (a) They are honest and fair; Canadians are great champions of fair play and we are particularly adept at mediation.
- (b) The Canadian usually stands out as the one thinking through the problem before speaking; we tend to be quieter in public than many others and sometimes this is mistaken for shyness and lack of aggressiveness.
- (c) We tend to care about one another. This could be a carry over from our early history, but it is certainly a refreshing trait and one which is very much lacking in many world societies today.

Therefore, Canadian citizenship carries with it the rights of democratic resolution of issues - something in scarce supply today - and the responsibility to take your place as a caring and concerned individual in a world that badly needs such people.



Donald Holstock
Mayor, Town Of Gravenhurst

*I thank God each day for
this wonderful Canada.*

The Most Beautiful Country

What Is A Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian Citizen, to me, is to be able to live in peace in the most beautiful country in the world; free from riots with lots of good nutritional food to eat; where colour or creed makes no difference in the social or work place; to live in a democratic country where justice is upheld and each can have freedom of speech; to be able to help third world countries by donations of food and material items for their survival.

I thank God each day for this wonderful country we live in, Canada.

That to me is a Canadian Citizen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald Holstock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'D' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pierre Juneau
President
Canadian Broadcasting
Corporation

*... (we are) a rational, essentially fair and
tolerant society which ... offers a
stable and creative alternative.*

An Open Society

To define citizenship in Canada, one must consider the elements which define the country: its immense size, its regional differences, the physical conditions which shape its people. The single adjective which best describes the salient quality of the Canadian personality in my opinion, is “fair-minded”. To some, Canadians appear to be unemotional. Rather than accept that comment as critical, I prefer to believe it describes a rational, essentially fair and tolerant society, which, in the face of the rampant nationalism present in many countries of the world, offers a stable and creative alternative. Over the years, Canadians have built a society which approaches cultural pluralism not with a “melting pot” philosophy but rather with an understanding that the diverse qualities of its many citizens offer an opportunity to create a unique country - a country which celebrates its differences. To be a Canadian citizen implies tolerance - a fair-minded approach to our fellow Canadians and a belief in the values of an open society.

Vincent Kerrio

Minister Of Natural Resources
Of Ontario

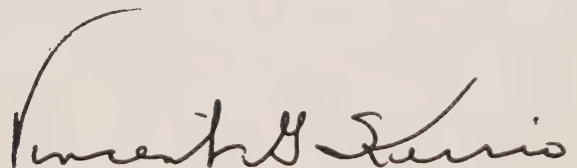
*... this diversity has been an historical
source of strength in this country.*

Building Strength

I am extremely proud of the multicultural and multi-racial diversity of Canada and, in particular, this province. As we are all well aware this diversity has been an historical source of strength in this country.

To be a Canadian today not only means that you accept and embrace the pluralistic nature of this society, but also view it as a source of binding strength, inspiration and resourcefulness.

I view the notion of Canadian citizenship with great respect and I am proud that I represent in provincial parliament a portion of this country, Niagara Falls, that exemplifies Ontario's vibrant multicultural diversity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent Kerrio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'V'.

Bishop Vazken
Keshishian

Primate, Diocese Of The
Armenian Church Of Canada

*... only a peace-loving, pious and united mosaic
can draw a beautiful multicoloured and multicultural picture
in the Canadian history book for future generations.*

Land Of Love And Peace

As we have lived for considerable years in many countries, East and West, serving as Spiritual Leader for the Armenian Apostolic Church, we have been in contact with different people, who belong to different races and religions. Thus, we have obtained a vast view of their rules and regulations, their cultures and customs.

Undertaking the task of Primate for the Canadian Diocese of the Armenian Church, has given us the opportunity of acquainting and studying quite closely the Canadian people, including the Canadian-Armenians who have come from different countries and now are a part of the Canadian Mosaic.

We have strongly felt and are convinced that Canada is one of the best countries to immigrate to and become Citizen of, and all those Canadians who have been fortunate to be born by ancestral roots in Canada must consider themselves blessed.

One of the most important good aspects of being a Canadian, besides the freedom that they can enjoy, is the liberty granted to them of keeping their identity, language and culture of their roots, even by being sponsored and encouraged by the Government of Canada. The Canadian Government does not press its citizens to get into the melting pot like other countries. As a result, the new Canadians are free to feel at home and in the meantime can keep their identity.

In return, the responsibilities of a Canadian Citizen is and should be to fulfill all the duties of a noble citizen. Show their appreciation for the wonderful things that have been given to them, and not create disturbances in this hospitable and peaceful land. They should deeply feel a Canadian Citizen, and endear the historical treasures by keeping them pure and patronized at any cost. Work wholeheartedly

for their country's achievements and be proud of it, always keeping their culture of origin for self-recognition. To be a faithful guardian soldier in protecting the rights and honour of his country.

Forty years is not a very long time to have perfectly organized Canadian Citizenship rights. And if each Canadian citizen recognize his duty and responsibility by keeping a brotherly spirit of togetherness and belonging in their daily endeavors, then they might be able to gain a better understanding within themselves.

Canada has a very short history but even that short history has proven Canada to be a land of love and peace. Now, that this land is prospering and growing, we think that one of the major keys of improvement is - that Canadian Citizens should always remember to continue their ancestral reputation and tradition of being a peace-loving, pious people, only a peace-loving, pious and *united* mosaic can draw a beautiful multicoloured and multicultural picture in the Canadian history book, for future generations.

May God bless this hospitable land and its people with worthy and wise leaders, who would be able to guide and strengthen the country, unselfishly and impartially, in unity and in peace.

Bishop Vazken

*... the growing recognition of individuals
and institutions that commitment to the goals of
multiculturalism is a positive, forward-looking step ...*

Our Vast, Varied Land

What Is A Canadian Citizen?

Today our definition of a Canadian is drawn in considerable part from the 1971 Federal Multicultural policy statements. There is, according to this policy, no single “true” image of what a Canadian should be. While the policy acknowledges our links to British and French traditions, it points out that a Canadian today may be of a very different ethnicity or race and that the cultural values and customs of such groups are to be placed on a par with the older and one-time dominant traditions. Another factor in the search to define a “Canadian citizen” is the regional perspective. Our land is vast and physically varied and this is reflected in its people. The federal-provincial system of government, which has been recently modified in the Meech Lake process reflects the enduring strength of regional Canadianism.

What then is a Canadian?

A Canadian is someone who is a citizen of Canada. Beyond this common characteristic is the mosaic of linguistic, cultural and racial diversity which was not always recognized in our historical development but, which we now realize is one of our country’s greatest sources of strength. It should also be noted that the growing recognition in individuals and institutions that commitment to the goals of multiculturalism is a positive, forward-looking step which can only serve to make Canada stronger and prevent us from falling victim to the divisiveness of racial tensions or cultural clashes which, unfortunately, are present in other parts of the world.

Each of us, as Canadians, should be proud of our individual heritage. We should celebrate our own traditions and also the richness of our national mosaic. Such celebration can only serve to strengthen the bonds which unite the people of our vast and varied land towards a bright and hopeful future.

Berchman Kil

Mel Lastman
Mayor, City Of North York

*A good citizen will not use
Canada as a battleground to settle old conflicts*

Peace-Loving

What Is A Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian citizen may speak any language, may come from any walk of life, religious, ethnic or cultural background.

A Canadian citizen is first and foremost a tolerant and peace-loving person, who appreciates and respects the privileges, rights and freedoms of our great country. He or she will be law-abiding and will not abuse the trust that is bestowed upon each of Canada's citizens.

He or she will leave any hatred, ill-will or prejudice at home and will not bring these destructive feelings to Canada's shores. A good citizen will not use Canada as a battleground to settle old conflicts.

A Canadian citizen will treasure our country and will always be willing to contribute to its social, political, economic and cultural growth by taking an interest, if not an active role in these affairs.

Dave Lawson

Assistant Co-Ordinator, Race
Relations
Windsor Board Of Education

*This diversity both distinguishes Canadians and
contributes to the essence and wealth of Canada.*

Challenges Of An Interdependent World

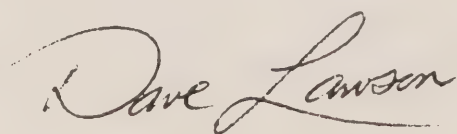
This is not an easy topic with which to deal. I suspect this is the case because “Canadianism” does not lend itself to rational analysis. The irony of this is that the illusive nature of our identity may be one of our greatest strengths.

My perception is that Canadians share a common bond in that we sense that we are building a society that reflects the richness of the many diverse elements which comprise our nation. Canada is the home to a multitude of cultural, racial, linguistic and religious groups. This diversity both distinguishes Canadians and contributes to the essence and wealth of Canada.

Various parts of our cultural mosaic reinforce each other thereby fulfilling the needs of our individual citizens while enhancing the Canadian fabric. As a result of our varied experience, the Canadian ideal is one of tolerance, of caring and of concern. As such, Canadians of diverse backgrounds develop and retain their own personal identity and encourage others to express their ethnocultural heritage.

It is instructive to note that our recently proclaimed Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms contains a provision which specifically declares that the Charter “shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians”. By acknowledging this Canadian ability to live together harmoniously in a multicultural society, our Charter of Rights and Freedoms expresses the significance of this achievement for Canadians and others who share our increasingly interdependent world.

Canadians take great pride that their society is greatly admired. However, because they recognize that their society is far from perfect they possess the energy, the resolve and the vision to successfully confront the challenges presented by our complex world. To be Canadian is to share the satisfaction of working together to enhance our society.



John Lombardi
President, CHIN RADIO/TV
International

... here in Canada anything can happen if you work.

Fiercely Canadian

Mr. Lombardi was invited to speak at a special session of the Court of Canadian Citizenship on April 15, 1987, by Presiding Judge, Maria Sgro. He was asked to speak to the new citizens and their families about "what it means to him to be a Canadian." His feelings ran deep as he celebrated with new Canadians the 40th anniversary of the first Canadian Citizenship Act.

"I am a Canadian by birth, born and raised here in Toronto. I know all about citizenship as it pertains to the early immigrant. My dad came here sometime at the turn of the century. He and all his early immigrant and pioneering buddies could hardly wait to become citizens. It had value in the early days, much more than today.

Being a Canadian means many things to many people. My mother and my father came from Italy with very little in the way of material possessions. They came because they wanted a better life. A better life for themselves, a better life for the children they knew they would one day bring into this world. Italians, like all others, are very family oriented. Children, family . . . these were important to my parents. The opportunity to raise a family in better circumstances than what they experienced in their homeland brought them to our beloved Canada.

My mom and dad came to Toronto at the turn of the century looking for the so-called streets paved with gold. They found the streets, but they weren't paved with gold. They worked hard together, as a team. They planned, they saved, they stretched, they made do, they persevered along with many other immigrants like them. I was born. My sister was born. Life was hard. Opportunities were all around however. You had but to reach out and make them happen because here in Canada anything can happen if you work. My mom used to say to me . . .

“Gianni, never stop dreaming. Work hard, reach for the stars, Gianni, and you’ll make it. If you don’t, at least you will stand tall.” It is with regret that I must stand before you and say to you that I didn’t make it soon enough for my beloved mother to reap some of the benefits that I now am in a position to bestow upon her. She would have been proud of her Gianni, this I know.

As president of CHIN Radio/TV International, broadcasting in over thirty languages to over thirty different cultures, we try very hard to meet the needs of new Canadians.

Several years back I was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada. Why you ask? Well, for doing something that I love to do. Radio and television broadcasting and being community inspired.

Where but in my beloved country of Canada can I be recognized for doing something that I so love to do? Where else but in my beloved Canada can I be fiercely Canadian and so mighty proud of my Italian heritage? Where else but in my beloved Canada can I be whatever I choose to be and where I can stand tall and proud and free as I am standing here today saying to you, to all of you ... welcome, welcome to *my* home, welcome to Canada.

The best advice I can give to you as new Canadians is to give to Canada your all and it will follow, as surely as night follows the day, that you, in turn, will receive all that this beloved country has to offer to you, and it has indeed so very, very much to offer and to give. Be good to Canada. It will be good to you.”

Jeffery S. Lyons
Chairman, Toronto Transit
Commission

*The struggle to find the Canadian identity
is a health quest . . .*

Ideals Fuel Dreams

The giving of oneself to the betterment of others; be it family or community, be it a personal act or public service, is a quality held in high regard by all citizens. To declare oneself to be a Canadian is to bear witness to all that you have accepted; a responsibility to contribute to the social and economic life that brings our people together and defines our place in global terms.

When I think of Canadians and their contributions, I see the rich cosmopolitan mix of the founding English-French heritage and those multicultural traditions that have so recently enhanced our cultural fabric. I see the struggle of the early settler and the struggle of each successive generation of new Canadians. I see the loss of youth in two world wars and the legacy of their sacrifice. I see the fine works of the professional and community leaders and the outstanding personal contributions of the less known and unheralded, in all walks of life. I think of the “quiet” Canadian, strong in purpose, giving of himself, the guardian of an ideal. I think of understated sacrifice, of moderation and tolerance, of commitment to family and the well-being of the community.

The struggle to find the Canadian identity is a healthy quest that brings to the fore all that we hope to be, and the reality of what we really are. It is a search for an ideal that focuses our everyday being on those virtues that we acknowledge as good, yet are probably fated to always strive to reach. But ideals fuel the dreams of men, dreams that bring us to an understanding of ourselves and the trust that we hold for the future.



Flora MacDonald
Minister of Communications Of
Canada

*We are all members of a society that is built
upon understanding and that honours human differences.*

Nationhood

Our country is young, but it has already developed its own, distinctive identity. It seems surprising to us today that Canada was eighty years old before it could confer Canadian, rather than British, citizenship on new arrivals. The first Citizenship Act was, therefore, a milestone in affirming our country's growth into nationhood.

Anniversaries like this are important because they remind us that it took long and patient efforts by earlier generations to establish this democracy, with its own institutions and values. And it will take continuing efforts by our generation and future generations to keep our rights, freedoms and responsibilities intact.

When Canadians welcome newcomers, we do not ask them to leave behind their own cultures, but to enrich Canada with their variety. New Canadians are encouraged to retain their heritage when they accept the responsibility and rights of citizenship. We have built political, social and cultural institutions that reflect our desire to understand others and live with them in harmony.

As the Minister responsible for culture in Canada, I have the privilege of seeing this policy result in a flourishing diversity of artistic forms and styles, giving our country one of the most dynamic cultural communities in the world.

This, then, is one of the glories of the Canadian citizenship we all share — old and new Canadians alike. We are all members of a society that is built upon understanding and that honours human differences. Ours is a country where every citizen has the right, the responsibility and the opportunity to shape its present and its future.

The Citizenship Act was the culmination of long years of nation-building. It made us all Canadians — citizens of an independent country with a heritage all its own, the sum of its many peoples, their values, ideals and ways of doing things. It paved the way to other milestones, such as the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

But it is not just such achievements we should celebrate, even though they do mark important stages to our development as a country. It is not even just the rights, liberties and responsibilities that Canadian citizenship brings. It is to Canada as a whole that we should pay tribute.

To celebrate Canada is to cherish our country's vast expanses, bordered by three oceans and abundant with mountains, rivers and forests. And beyond appreciating these natural splendours, celebrating Canada is also paying tribute to the peoples who inhabit our country. All of us, with all of our diversity, fashion the unity of our country and give it, its particular character. We all help define what a Canadian citizen is.

Anna MacDonald

James M. MacLatchie

Executive Director
The John Howard Society Of
Canada

*We can only respect law that we recognize is a
reflection of what we truly believe.*

Respect For Law

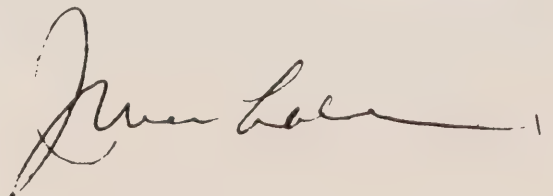
To me, to be a Canadian citizen means to be one who trusts the justice system, and that includes our politicians who frame our laws, our law enforcement agencies, our courts, and our corrections and aftercare systems. It should not be a blind trust however, and true citizenship requires the active participation of Canadians in all aspects of our legal system.

We participate by taking elections seriously; by abiding by the law and by promoting responsible law enforcement; by attending court to monitor and to legitimize the judgement of our neighbors; by insisting on humane disposition of sentences placed upon offenders either in the community or if necessary, in prison; and by permitting those who have offended to return without prejudice to the community.

Participation may be direct through our vocation or indirect through volunteerism or even moral support.

Canadians are characterized by their respect for the law. We can only respect law that we recognize is a reflection of what we truly believe. We can only respect law which is framed, and administered by those we trust. That suggests that we must be vigilant with respect to our own beliefs and the social institutions which we have developed in Canada over the years. It is an awesome responsibility, which demands that we keep ourselves informed, open to new ideas, and prepared to resist injustice where it appears.

It is also the price of freedom, and a responsibility that Canadians have accepted willingly.



Jack Masters
Mayor, City Of Thunder Bay

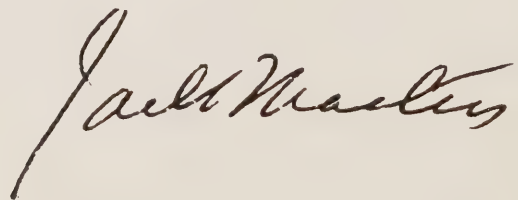
Multiculturalism is the art of being a Canadian . . .

Strong Sense Of Community

To me, a Canadian citizen is one who has either been born in Canada or has accepted Canadian citizenship. Canadians are by and large a caring people with a great deal of respect for the rights of the individual combined with a strong sense of community.

While we have many regional differences, there is a common bond that joins us together in a way that is quite different from any nation on earth. We are so often compared with our American cousins and other countries but the reality is that there is something special about being a Canadian. Something special revolves around the fact that we are a bilingual country that respects and encourages multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is the art of being a Canadian while respecting one's original heritage and the heritage of others within the Canadian family.

Despite our bickerings and our differences of opinion, when the Canadian flag is flown, when the national anthem is sung, or when there is need to come together as a Canadian family, Canadians do so with pride and alacrity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jack Masters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Joseph L. McCaffrey
Mayor, City Of St. Catharines

*...in failing to achieve a dream of national identity,
we have perhaps avoided the pitfalls of nationalism
and have created something sensible, unique, and
truly Canadian.*

Resistance To Uniform Identity

A Canadian cannot be defined in a single entity. The multicultural makeup of Canada is the place one has to look when trying to get an understanding of the definition of a Canadian. The very fact that the forefathers, the United Empire Loyalists, wanted to stay with their cultural heritage rather than being submerged into the new American melting pot was the real beginning of what became the Canadian mosaic.

The Quebec Act of 1774 helped to preserve the French identity. The French culture, which is still maintained in Canada together with the British cultural roots, provided a strong basis for the multicultural country which is Canada today.

Since Confederation in 1867, waves of immigrants of various ethnic backgrounds from all parts of the world have enriched not only Canadian society but the City of St. Catharines, "The Multicultural Capital of Canada." This enriching process has been encouraged by the Canadian government's policy of Multiculturalism which allows each and every ethnic group to maintain their culture. All Canadians have the opportunity to learn and understand the different backgrounds and cultures of their fellow Canadians, enabling everyone to work together for the good of the nation, while at the same time not to fear and mistrust the differences but to understand and enjoy them.

With the Canadian government now making the South Morsby Island National Park a reality, the Native People are taking a giant step forward in protecting their cultural heritage which will add greatly to the Canadian Multicultural society.

No matter what the background, there has always been determined resistance to a uniform identity which could destroy or dilute our earlier heritages. We have had no cries of “United We Stand, Divided We Fall”, yet in failing to achieve a dream of national identity, we have perhaps avoided the pitfalls of nationalism and have created something sensible, unique, and truly Canadian.

What is a Canadian? A Canadian is a person who truly loves his country and heritage - finding strength, not weakness, in the differences.

I am proud indeed to be a Canadian!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. M. 'Coff'". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops and a prominent initial "J".

I.S. McCauley

President, Centennial College

... the feel of citizenship contains a fair amount of ambivalence which makes us often question our identity and might cause us at times to be too inward-looking.

Ambivalence A Positive Force

A Canadian citizen is one who has a commitment to the ideals and principles of a unique national democracy. I purposely use the word “commitment” to indicate that it takes more “intentionality”, more of a formed conviction, more of “wanting to be a Canadian citizen” than might be true of other nationalities. Besides being an immigrant nation, except for the autonomous peoples, Canada, by and large, cannot provide its citizens with the traditional factors of automatic belonging and identification. Its geography is vast and beyond human psychological scale; languages are different; politically it is a federation of many regions; it is racially mixed; its history does not provide a commonality of experience as a nation; it is pluralistic in religions and value systems; and economically there are great differences. As a consequence, “the feel” of citizenship contains a fair amount of ambivalence which makes us often question our identity and might cause us at times to be too inward-looking. (Some immigrant groupings solve the ambivalence problem by creating or maintaining their own little world apart from the larger Canadian context.)

Ambivalence, in my view, is a positive force which, though painful at times, causes us to re-evaluate ourselves and frees us from old confining mind-sets. Ambivalence is a pre-condition to commitment of a personal nature. This commitment for the Canadian citizen is to the ideal and practice of equal opportunity for each and every member of the country, and, in a world context, to the strenuous promotion of the same. A critic might say that this idea of citizenship is not adherence to a nation, but rather to an ideology. My simple answer would be that, if the chief characteristic of Canadian citizenship is the commitment to a humanitarian experiment, I’m proud to be a Canadian citizen. Besides, the world is getting too small for narrow national, racial, cultural or sexist attitudes. Those who anxiously hang on to such attitudes have already been by-passed by history.

Although the answer to the question of “What is a Canadian citizen” is far from being finalized, I strongly believe that an incipient profile is emerging based on a dawning consciousness that Canada is not a “country” or a “culture”, but an ideal. This ideal was not set up beforehand by some ideologue, but was and is taking shape by “doing”. Step by step, this ideal is being realized and embedded in enlightened legislation. As we go along, the person of the Canadian citizen is shaped and emerges more clearly.

J.B. Mc Caulley

Barbara McDougall
Minister Of State (Privatization)
Minister, The Status Of Women

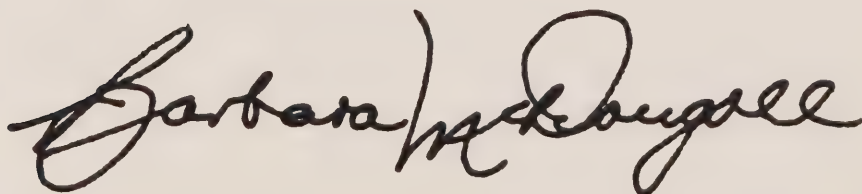
*A Canadian is secure in the knowledge that . . . he/she is
immune from arbitrary seizure or detention.*

Tolerance and Determination

Being a Canadian means that no matter what your heritage, colour, religion, gender or age, the rights and protection afforded to you under the law are equal to those afforded to any other person.

A Canadian citizen is someone who knows that all Canadians, by virtue of their right to vote, are able to make their voice heard on national, provincial and local issues. He/she is someone who is secure in the knowledge that, regardless of the circumstances, he/she is immune from arbitrary seizure or detention.

We are a people who have set about the great task of creating a new kind of country, one which is being built by people with many different cultures and languages. Our tolerance and determination are the characteristics which will ensure that our experiment in nation building will not fail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara McDougall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'B' and 'M'.

Pauline McGibbon

Former Lieutenant Governor Of
Ontario

*It took my first trip overseas to make me realize
that I was a Canadian and proud of it.*

Not An American

I find it difficult to define a Canadian Citizen to-day. An Anglo Saxon of my age, growing up in a small Ontario city (Sarnia) never thought about being a Canadian Citizen. Living on the border, reading American newspapers, shopping in Port Huron and Detroit, one knew one was not an American. It took my first trip overseas to make me realize that I was a Canadian and proud of it. I did not appreciate being taken for an American.

Canadians seem to be quieter, less demonstrative than some other nationalities. Respect for the law is part of being a Canadian Citizen. I like to think that Canadians are concerned about the well-being of others.

We have the right to vote and the freedom to disagree whether publicly or privately. The more I see or read of other countries the happier I am to be a Canadian. The tragedy is that some Canadians do not realize how lucky we are. I find this hard to understand. Because we have a good educational system and good newspapers. I believe that we Canadians have a better view of the world than citizens of some other countries.

Pauline McGibbon

Keith L. McIntyre
President, Mohawk College

*A Canadian is honest and forthright and able
to ask "What can I do for Canada?"*

Loyal And Patriotic

Who is a Canadian citizen?

The story of Canada is the unique story of its people, with varied ideas and experiences, developing different ways of life in response to the unique resources, opportunities and problems posed by this vast land.

The idea of Canadian Citizenship has evolved during the last forty years just as Canada evolved from a colony to a nation.

One may therefore say that a Canadian citizen is:

1. One who was born in Canada or who has voluntarily immigrated to Canada and chooses to live here. The latter may be an immigrant to Canada for various reasons - to achieve better professional and educational opportunities, to pursue religious convictions, to avoid political persecution or to attain economic betterment. Many Canadian citizens are descendants of recent immigrants born in Canada.
2. A Canadian citizen makes every effort to know his or her rights and privileges as given in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and, at the same time, is fully aware of his or her responsibilities by knowing and acting according to the country's laws, upholding the laws in personal life, in family life and in community life.
3. A Canadian citizen utilizes the educational and professional development opportunities for personal growth and maturation of himself, his family and his community.

4. A Canadian citizen strives to become a productive and self-supporting member of society, capable of paying taxes to the Government, for the betterment of Canadian society.
5. A Canadian citizen is loyal and patriotic and is proud to assist in the growth and development of Canada's all-round progress - educational, literary, scientific, industrial, fine arts or technological (according to his or her talents) and, wherever possible, purchases Canadian-made products.
6. A Canadian citizen makes positive contributions of cultural and ideological values, from the finest values and features of his or her mother country, in order to enrich the cultural mosaic and family ties in Canada.
7. A Canadian citizen, while maintaining cultural ties with the country of his or her origin, does not participate in or sympathize with any of the political or sectarian issues and conflicts involving his mother country. He or she does not contribute any efforts or funds to support, as a partisan, in any of these conflicts. He or she does not tarnish, in any way, the image of a Canadian citizen by involving himself or herself in any of the religious or political or separatist issues in the country of his origin.
8. A Canadian citizen is honest and forthright and able to ask "What can I do for Canada?" instead of "What can Canada do for me?"

Leis Mulya

Bob McKessock
MPP, Grey Riding (L)

*... a Canadian is willing to ... lend
a hand to his neighbour.*

Community

I feel that a Canadian Citizen is one who enjoys the rights and freedoms of this great country called Canada, understands the opportunities available to all who live here, while at the same time accepts his responsibilities to work together and alongside people of different cultures and nationalities. I feel that a Canadian is willing to maintain and build the community in which he lives, and to co-operate with and lend a helping hand to his neighbour.

Bob McKessock

W.G. McLean
Mayor, City Of Ajax

*... We may be one of the very few peoples who can
truly claim an international citizenship*

An Amalgam Of All Good

A Canadian Citizen

Canada has developed in such a unique fashion, in the accelerated pace of the twentieth century that, on the face of the earth, we may be one of the very few peoples who can truly claim an international citizenship.

We have been shaped and influenced by our two powerful, but adversarial neighbours, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Our ties with the Commonwealth, and with the mother countries of Great Britain and France, along with contributions from every nation and culture around the globe, have allowed us to develop as an amalgam of all the good qualities the nations of the world can offer.

Though geographically we make claim to being the second largest nation in the world, with an abundance of resources at our disposal, we have never rallied to express our Canadianism predominantly in territorial terms. Canadianism is not bounded or limited to a given land. It is a concept, a set of unarticulated beliefs that have been forming and evolving in the hearts of Canadians. It may well be that the true essence of being a Canadian is as indescribable as any other great and exulting feeling, like coming face to face with the wonders and beauty of nature, the miracle of a birth, or the tumultuous and heady ecstasy of falling in love for the first time.

The language has not yet been created, nor the word devised, to adequately describe the true essence of what is felt to be Canadianism. Look into the eyes and

hearts of Canadians. Feel the pulse of the blood running through the veins of Canadians, the exhilaration that Canadians know and feel that they are Canadian. Come to know Canadians and they will share the feeling with you. Only then will you begin to know and understand what it is to be a citizen of Canada — A CANADIAN.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and a long, sweeping underline that extends under the word "Gowan".

Barbara Meisner
National Public Relations
Officer
Girl Guides Of Canada

*... women and girls as equal partners
with men and boys in society*

Stewards Of Environment

Citizenship is a “membership in a country”. In Canada, this membership entitles a person to such things as freedom of speech, worship and association, and it also carries with it responsibilities and obligations — those “things” which make up the profile of a Canadian Citizen. These include:

1. Active participation in the democratic process of election, and voting.
2. Awareness of trends and issues which affect the lives of Canadians; and using freedom of speech and association, help shape public opinion.
3. Giving service and leadership to the community, whether local or national.
4. Respecting the rights and values of other Canadians.
5. Obeying the laws of the country.
6. Stewardship of the natural environment.

A Canadian Citizen in 1987 is open to multiculturalism; heritage, tradition with a future; women and girls as equal partners with men and boys in society.

Barbara Meisner

Ed Mirvish

President, Honest Ed's Ltd.

*Like any family; we argue, we disagree, but somehow we
try and are able to forget our differences.*

A Homogeneous Family

What is a Canadian citizen?

The first requisite of a good citizen in this country of ours is that he/she shall be able and willing to pull their weight.

From the plains of Abraham to our time they kept arriving, the hopeful, the persecuted, the starving and the striving - all thirsting for a better future, for equal opportunity - for peace.

How do they blend into a homogeneous family? We are always in the process of finding out. Like any family; we argue, we disagree, but somehow we try and are able to forget our differences.

One thing stands out and I believe we can be proud of this: Our name amongst the Nations of the World is an honourable one. We are regarded with respect and amongst the Third World Nations with some feelings of gratitude and love.

I say this because of an incident that happened to me just the other day.

I was in need of a taxi. The driver who picked me up was amiable and talkative. He originally came from the Island of Grenada in the Caribbean.

He arrived in Toronto twenty five years ago, a young black man in his twenties and started driving a cab.

Shortly after his arrival he met his present wife who had also recently arrived from Jamaica.

By working hard and long hours he managed to save \$3,000.00.

On the advise of a lawyer friend he put this money down on a \$25,000.00 house in Mississauga.

With the growth and prosperity of our city his home greatly appreciated in value.

He related with pride how his daughter graduated as a nurse and his son was presently going to university and doing well.

He pointed out to me that his free time was spent as much as possible with his family and he never had problems with his children.

His mother still lives in Grenada and comes to visit him here in Canada every summer.

I enquired if he ever got homesick for Grenada or went back to visit. He replied, he has never gone back. Canada is his home, he loves it, and he is a Canadian Citizen. His last words to me were “Look what this Country has given us?”

My reaction was, it works both ways, “look what you have done this Country,- you have given us hard work, loyalty, and last but not least, your heart.” A good example of a good Canadian Citizen.

When I left the cab I felt good, he had made my day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Perivish". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lillian Morgenthau

President

Canadian Association of Retired
Persons

*Seen from abroad a Canadian is . . . viewed as a
civilized, friendly, mannered person who appreciates
other cultures.*

A Respected Image

Citizenship allows its holder to enjoy the freedom and privileges of Canada with full political privileges.

Canada, because of its unique make-up of cultures, must create a Canadian culture of its own. The image of Canada is a world respected one. It imposes certain responsibilities on our citizens.

These rights must include a citizen's right to worship his own religion, and to respect his original culture, but once he becomes a Canadian his allegiance must be to Canada. He must allow himself and his children to grow and become Canadians.

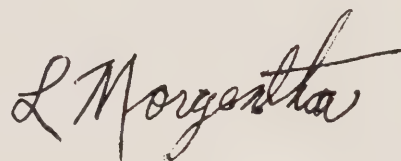
A Canadian citizen has the right to carry a Canadian passport and to vote in elections. Seen from abroad a Canadian is usually well received because he is viewed as a civilized, friendly, mannered person who appreciates other cultures.

Our national languages are English and French and a Canadian citizen should choose either as his primary language.

The world is a small place today and Canada is a prime country for immigration. We are a big country, but we cannot absorb all who wish to come here. We must remember Canada's heritage has been open to those wishing for a better life and maintain a fair immigration policy. Again for those who do immigrate there must be a willingness to become a valuable citizen willing to contribute to Canada's culture and economy.

A Canadian citizen may be of any colour, creed or sex, but must be willing to understand and contribute to the needs of our country. They should not emphasize its differences, but try to overcome the differences and respect each other needs.

We have a very high standard of living. It's up to all Canadians to work together to make a Canadian a true nationality not a mosaic of splintered cultures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L Morgenthau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

*I feel optimistic . . . and believe that our attitudes
today will shape the Canada of tomorrow.*

An Agent For Change

To me, citizenship incorporates a wide range of perspectives and values and a definable body of thought. It demands factual knowledge of the obligations one assumes but also a conscious effort to observe, question, think critically and act purposefully, to influence events and effect desired and needed change. It means being a thoughtful observer and critic of society and an agent for change.

I believe all Canadians need to be aware constantly of their citizenship responsibilities. An understanding of who and what we are will encourage consensus and harmony among Canadians.

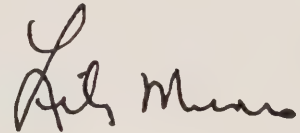
Our common set of values and ideals include an abiding commitment to democratic principles and the preservation of human rights. It will continue to do so because of the kind of society we have built in this country. Canadians believe in the rule of law and have, I feel, a commitment to 'peace, order and good government'.

We have a tradition of private initiative and of public responsibility. Canadians have long believed in a balanced and co-operative relationship between private enterprise and government.

Canadians recognize the interdependency of the modern world. We have demonstrated awareness of our international obligation through the Commonwealth and the United Nations and, in the past, through the ultimate sacrifice of so many Canadians to preserve freedom and independence for ourselves and others.

We have come to appreciate the value of a culturally diverse society and have a firm commitment to reflect that diversity in our laws and policies and in our democratic ideals.

I feel optimistic about the future of Canada and believe that our attitudes today will shape the Canada of tomorrow. At the same time, I do not doubt that we will need all our wits and wisdom to build on what we have developed. We will need courage and foresight to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L" and a trailing flourish.

Jean Parker
President, Big Sisters Association

*... Canadians do not hate Canadians in other regions
but only the issues that cause disparity in their own region.*

The Right Of Choice

A Canadian would be perceived to be:

1. friendly
2. down to earth
3. having a viewpoint that the rest of the world (excluding the U.S.) and its problems are far away
4. nonpolitical
5. not poor
6. regionalistic
7. definitely not American
8. proud of being Canadian but never really showing it
9. hardworking
10. adventuresome
11. has good moral sense, and
12. strong personality

From the above list, I would like to comment on some key points.

Being nonpolitical and regionalistic stem from living in a large country where people tend to identify more with the issues around them such as the oil crisis, or not finding work in Cape Breton, than with developing a constitution. The regionalistic Canadian is only surface deep for Canadians do not hate Canadians in other regions but only the issues that cause disparity in their own region.

When I say that Canadians are not American it means we definitely know we are Canadian but are not quite sure of what that all entails.

The key right that I feel Canadians have is the right of choice. In this country we can live where we want and be what we want to be. This is a very general statement and of course people's circumstances in many cases restrict their potential but the key difference is that the "State" does not restrict that potential.

The key responsibilities Canadians have are to (1) their families and (2) their jobs. Many Canadians also have the desire to volunteer their services to help their fellow man.

Canadians should also feel responsible for:

- (1) protecting their natural resources (i.e. water) and
- (2) determining the future direction of Canada in relationship to the U.S. and the International spectrum.

In summation, I feel Canadians are survivors, but only if they look outside their own environment and start to see themselves relative to the rest of the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles E. Pascal

President
Sir Sandford Fleming College

*... when I travel to the People's Republic of China ...
I am amazed that more than one-quarter of the world's
population continues to idealize one of our own.*

A Peaceful Lot

I am very proud to be a Canadian, and even prouder to be a new Canadian having chosen to be part of our “culture of cultures”. This country’s quest for a clear identity is, to some observers, hampered by our multitude of identities. From my vantage point, this multicultural society and wonderful diversity flows from our Canadian mosaic. Because of my work, I have been blessed with opportunities to visit all provinces in Canada and many countries around the world. My internal and external travels reinforce this broad and complex Canadian persona. I have dined with a fisherman and his family in Trouty, Newfoundland; spent a Ukranian Easter with a family in Melville, Saskatchewan; participated in a pow-wow in Ontario; and listened to the finer points of baseball in French while watching an earlier Expos team play in Jarry Park.

I also contend that we stand in the wings of the nuclear stage rather than in the centre. Of course, I am sorry that there is a nuclear stage at all. However, as a Canadian, I am pleased that our relative neutrality gives us the opportunity to whisper appropriate stage directions to those at the centre. We are perceived to be a peaceful lot, and when I travel to the Peoples’ Republic of China, as I have had the opportunity to do on several occasions, I am amazed that more than one-quarter of the world’s population continues to idolize one of our own. When one is greeted in the name of “Bai chu en” (Bethune) by a 17-year old peasant girl in the country or someone on the streets of Shanghai, it is a very moving and proud experience. Back in Ontario, in a high school classroom to present my slides on China, I am frequently reminded that, as Canadians, we know very little about our own history.

This is reinforced by the fact that maybe five percent of the students in any classroom in Canada have not heard of Bethune. How many people in history

have been known by one-quarter of the world's population? No, we as educators and as parents, certainly do not show enough respect for our past and its heroes.

Just as our “cultural mosaic” is a strength, I am disturbed by the not so subtle racisms. I am talking specifically about all those who have come to this country during our very brief 120 years. How quickly we have become settled - perhaps too settled and too conservative - with respect to the newest of the new Canadians who wish to be part of a great and good dream. The tendency for subtlety in the pockets of racism that exist disturbs me because of its insidious nature and the difficulty in dealing with it. Indeed, we have all the potential for being as peaceful with ourselves as countries around the world perceive us to be. I would like Canadians to live up to the reputation as responsible citizens in a troubled world. I would like us to be perceived as people who not only love humanity, but genuinely like people by the manner in which we present ourselves to ourselves; to visitors to our country; and to new friends whom we meet in other countries. I would like Canadians to be able to deal gracefully, securely and more confidently with the ambiguities and complexities associated with the global village, whether we are talking about economic or social challenges and opportunities. Indeed, I would like us, as Canadians, to take a few more risks and provide leadership in dealing with the world's pressing problems. We have in this country a great experiment, where individual dignity and differences have been brought together in peaceful interdependence. I am proud of it. We should work to make it even better.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a large, stylized capital 'R' followed by a series of loops and a trailing flourish.

K.G. Pedersen

President and Vice-Chancellor
University Of Western Ontario

*Canadian citizens are noted for . . . their equanimity
their compassion, their sense of justice and their
thoughtfulness.*

Most Privileged

To be a citizen of Canada is to be among the world's most privileged. Without making it a major issue, Canada has become the home to millions from highly diverse cultural and social backgrounds in an experiment which has few, if any, parallels in the modern developed world. Citizens of this country are noted for many attributes which are highly complimentary: their equanimity, their compassion, their sense of justice and their thoughtfulness. Service to others has always been a tradition of Canada and remains a theme to which we must all aspire to our utmost.

This year is the 40th anniversary of Canadian citizenship. Much has happened in this country over that period of time; much to which we as Canadians can look with great pride. Let us at this time commit each of us to doing at least as well over the next 40 years.



D. John Phillips

Director of Education
Board of Education for the City
of York

*I share with those who are coming today the excitement
of joining a society that reflects the enrichment
of so many cultures*

An Honour

The City of York is an area of Metropolitan Toronto which is home to people who represent many different cultural and language backgrounds. It is also a city which experiences constant change. To me, it is this pattern of diversity and change that characterizes what it means to be a Canadian.

I am proud that I was once a newcomer to Canada myself and have personally experienced the welcome that Canadians extend to newcomers. I share with those who are coming today the excitement of joining a society that reflects the enrichment of so many different cultures.

Most people probably don't think too often about what Citizenship means. Not everyone realizes that it is an honour to be a Canadian citizen. Those who are born in Canada and those who take the oath of Canadian Citizenship share pride in being part of a unique society that welcomes change and diversity.



Walter G. Pitman

Director, Ontario Institute
for Studies in Education

*... a Canadian citizen has ... to do with accepting the
many different colours, languages, traditions and
behaviours of other Canadians.*

Survive Assimilation

I find it hard to articulate specifically on “what is a Canadian citizen”.

I think, more than most other countries, it has less to do with our roots, our language, our cultural heritage, and more to do with accepting the many different colours, languages, traditions and behaviours of other Canadians. It is this acceptance of a glorious variety which has made Canada less racially violent than most other lands.

It is certainly not being anti-American — but it is knowing the real difference in the values, the history, the culture of these two countries which share the North American continent, in order that Canada can be protected by its own citizens and thereby survive continental assimilation.

W. Pitman / km

Jim Pollock

MPP, Hastings-Peterborough
(P.C.)

*Being a Canadian is the pride that you experience
when . . . saying 'I'm a Canadian!'*

I'm A Canadian

There are those, I am sure, who do not realize that although we became a self-governing country in 1867, it was not until 80 years later that we gained the right to call ourselves Canadian.

We in Canada do not do a lot of flag waving or bragging about ourselves. We are a fairly modest and reserved society. Canadians as a whole, live by a rather conservative set of values. These are to home, to family and to our country. These are not trendy or faddish and do not receive big headlines in the media, but this is what we are.

On this anniversary, it should be remembered that Canada and Canadians are held in the highest regard the world over. The Dutch in particular have a great deal of respect for us for the assistance we gave them during World War II. In fact, there are many individual Canadians who gave a great deal of themselves to improve life for all.

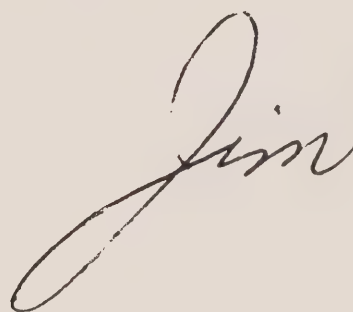
It was a Canadian, Dr. Frederick Banting that discovered insulin would control diabetes. It was in Brantford, Ontario that Alexander Graham Bell first developed the telephone. And more recently, it was a Canadian - Ambassador Ken Taylor - who orchestrated the escape of several Americans from Iran during those turbulent days in 1979. While it is not necessary that we enshrine these people in song and story, it is important that we quietly remember their commitment with honour and pride.

As for my own experiences, I have had the extreme privilege to serve the people of the provincial riding of Hastings-Peterborough as their representative in the provincial Legislature. When I first entered the Legislature in 1981, the rights and

responsibilities of being Canadian became abundantly clear. This was truly a humbling experience. As an elected representative of the people, my colleagues and I have the right to make laws that will effect all Ontarians. With that right however, comes the responsibility to exercise that power in a fair and honest manner.

Being a Canadian does not merely mean being able to sing “O Canada” the loudest at a ball game or buying only Canadian produced goods. Being a Canadian is the pride that you experience when wearing a Maple Leaf Lapel Pin or saying “I’m a Canadian” when asked where you are from when visiting a foreign country. Being a Canadian is also being proud of your heritage. Whether you are a native Indian, or your ancestors came to Canada to escape hunger during the Irish potato famine in the mid 1800’s or you came to Canada fleeing an oppressive regime in South America or Africa, we are virtually a nation of immigrants. This is what we all have in common.

In closing, I would just like to say that as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Canadian Citizenship, we must all reflect on what it means to be a citizen of this or any other country. We should all evaluate ourselves and say simply - “I am a Canadian”.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Doug Reycraft

MPP, Middlesex (L)

*This pride in being Canadian . . . is never loud or boastful
since it is derived from a respect for cultural diversity.*

Proud To Be A Canadian

It is a very difficult task to identify what exactly a Canadian citizen is. Ironically, however, I believe it is precisely this fact which represents the beginning point to any explanation of what it means to be Canadian.

Canadians live in a society which encourages a diversity of lifestyles, beliefs, values, and cultures. In being provided with the opportunity to freely express and observe the traditions of others, we possess a tolerance and an appreciation of all people regardless of whether they share our personal beliefs.

People from around the world have come to Canada and have become Canadian citizens but, at the same time have continued to be French, British, Ukranian, Polish, Italian, or German to name just a few.

The pride in being Canadian stems from living in this kind of society and from being free to continue the ways of the country from which we originated. This pride is never loud nor boastful since it is a pride that is derived from a respect for cultural diversity. As Canadians, when we look to the people of other countries, we see the ways of our neighbours and therefore never desire to force our personal beliefs upon them. Simply put, we realize that we ourselves would not be what we are without the influences of all nationalities.

In conclusion, I would have to say that the most important right extended to us by way of our citizenship is the right to practise and celebrate our own culture. On the other hand, the most important obligation for us to fulfill is tolerance and respect for all who practice ways which may not be our own.



R.J. Roberts
Executive Director
Boy Scouts of Canada

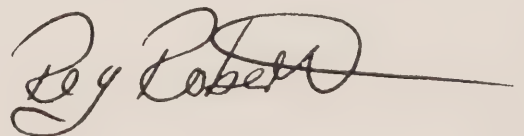
*The development of citizenship . . . takes a different
form for each group . . .*

Responsible Citizenship

This is the 81st year of Scouting in Canada, eighty-one years of helping Canadian young people along the road to responsible citizenship. On behalf of Scouts-Canada, I am pleased to share with you some of the ways we do so.

Our image of citizenship takes many forms. We are still recognized as the organization whose members help little old ladies across the street, which we will do when called upon, however, we have in the past fourteen years also planted almost 35,000,000 seedlings from coast to coast and doing a “good turn every day” is still a slogan we do not take lightly.

We have five separate age groups in Scouting and each has a program geared to the age group. The development of citizenship naturally takes a different form for each group, but always pointing towards the achievement of our Aim and Principle.



Robert G. Rosehart

President
Lakehead University

*... Canadian society is continuously changing ... in
order to achieve the ideal of a blended, multicultural
society.*

Canadian-ness

I am sure that Canadians agree that citizenship implies both rights and responsibilities. Canadians enjoy many fundamental rights and liberties. These important social and political principles must be guarded with vigilance in our pluralistic society with its confusing maelstrom of modern moral values and with its simplistic advocates of the quick fix. Young and still growing, Canadian society is continuously changing and acclimatizing the old and the new, the customary and the exotic, in order to achieve the ideal of a blended, multicultural society.

Delineation of the qualities and characteristics of a Canadian in clear terms will, I am afraid, result only in the presentation of such clearcut stereotypes as the Canadian Mountie or the heavy-booted, plaid-shirted lumberjack, or the frustrated violence-prone hockey player. Canadians, like other nationals, are complex and diverse in their qualities and characteristics. One's nationality is as much a function of one's beliefs and personal perception as it is of the views of others, non-nationals, of oneself. To me, the quintessential characteristics and qualities of a Canadian are law-abiding attitudes; moderation and tolerance practised to the start of apathy; an awareness of Canadian history which disavowed the spectacular and revolutionary in favour of the moderate individual progression of history but which is capable of rising to the crisis of the time with an appropriate societal response. Canadians, unlike their neighbours, value collective responses to social needs and are prepared to enjoy both the costs and the benefits.

Finally, the question, "What is a Canadian?" is as relevant as to ask what is a Swiss, a Belgian, a Pole, a Yugoslav, a United Kingdomer (or Greater Britisher), a Netherlander, or a German (East or West)? Do these nationals possess a definition,

in clear terms of themselves? A Canadian, it seems to me, is a person who perceives himself/herself as a Canadian who is aware of the Canadian-ness flourishing around him/her; and who understands the need to assert this Canadian-ness through his/her activities, and who is ready to acclimatize one's native cultural baggage to the continuous enhancement of multicultural and beneficial Canadian-ness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Rosenthal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Bob" is written with a large, open 'B' and a small 'o'. The last name "Rosenthal" starts with a large 'R' and ends with a long, horizontal stroke that tapers off.

D.A. Shields

President
Sheridan College

... a Canadian instinctively relates to a society that assumes many responsibilities on behalf of the individual.

Nature, Distance, Geography

A Canadian views herself as a citizen of the world, usually with ancestral roots in some other part of the world. There remains a friendly association with a country of origin because the transition to Canadian status was usually by choice and without bitterness of any kind.

On the other hand, a Canadian instinctively relates to a society that assumes many responsibilities on behalf of the individual. The individual typically assumes that relinquishing these “problem” responsibilities in no way reduces the individual freedoms.

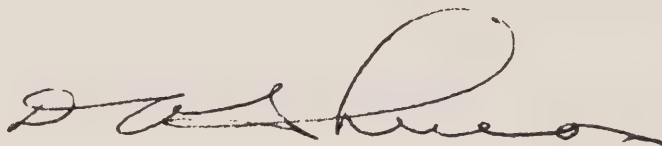
A Canadian may view life as a struggle with nature, distance and geography. Canadians may be more individualistic because these challenges were taken on by individuals as opposed to wars, which tend to unite people.

Canadians see the resolution of their problems as being dependent on intellect and communal action - not on aggression.

Canadians assume the individuals of other nationalities are honest and intelligent and treat them accordingly. The civilizing process of Canadians has not been interrupted by conflicts but has proceeded generation by generation from a country of origin to the present. Canadians exhibit a high level of trust and openness toward the people of other countries, perhaps based on naivety!

Canadians are quick and generous in their response to the needs of “mother” countries even if war is involved. Even though Canadian resources are limited there has always been a readiness to help others.

In summary, Canadians are multi-ethnic, worldly and trusting. As a nation we assume the problems of individuals within our country but we protect their freedoms with equal zeal. Our character has been moulded by nature, geography and the cultures of the societies from which we have emigrated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Sweeney

Minister of Community and
Social Services
of Ontario

*I'm never happier than when celebrations are marking . . .
a special day in the life of our country . . .*

Nice Guys Finish First

I am a Canadian citizen. My name is Indira or Irving, Maria or Mordechai, Lorenzo or Lydia, Abdulla or Antoinette, Kim or Lee.

I am an individual first, holding strong opinions and a deep interest in events around me. I crave the opportunity to learn.

I am proud of my heritage. I take pleasure in celebrating my unique mother tongue and culture.

I love to be part of something: foremost a loving family, secondly a neighbourhood, and then a community, and a province or territory, and a citizen of the finest country in the world.

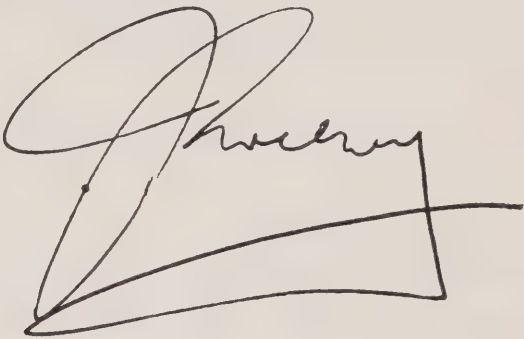
I am a participant, always looking for opportunities to become involved and to contribute to my community. I have a basic sense of justice and fairness. I always root for the little guy. I champion the underdog. I desperately want to believe that 'nice guys' finish first.

I like a good time. I love to party, but I'm never happier than when celebrations are marking the accomplishments of a national hero, the leadership of a Canadian statesman, a special day in the life of our country, or an important victory by our beloved and revered sports teams.

I love to be entertained, whether it be by watching the finest entertainment and culture the world has to offer or the junior band at the local high school; whether it be by participating in a hot-line show on the CBC or by talking for hours to my aunt on the phone.

I love Kootenay apples, Winnipeg perogies, wild rice from Northern Ontario, Nova Scotia lobsters, and Quebec cider.

I have come to the inescapable conclusion that we must live in the greatest country in the world and couldn't be happier.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phoebe". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "P" and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Walter Temelini

Associate Professor of Italian
Studies
University of Windsor

*In a very real sense 1867 and 1947 were
simply major steps among many steps.*

Learn To Be Canadian

While legal Canadian citizenship began 40 years ago, the concept of being Canadian is much older. It includes the Aboriginal Peoples, les Canadiens, and the involvement, commitment, and participation of all other peoples in building this country in the past three centuries. In a very real sense 1867 and 1947 were simply major steps among many steps.

Citizenship should include official Bilingualism: from section 133 through to the Official Languages Act of 1969 - and the nation-wide commitment to two official languages.

Multiculturalism and all it means or signifies should be considered as a part of citizenship. The commitment to positive human and group relations, linguistic support, race relations, immigrant settlement, and to multiculturalism in education, health, and social services must be seen as an integral part of each citizen's right to access and participation.

Similarly, the more general commitment to human rights regarding women, race relations, and the many other areas must be part of "what a Canadian is."

A commitment to the democratic process and to civil rights are again part of the long-standing political commitments of Canadians. These rights and responsibilities must be seen as part of our citizenship.

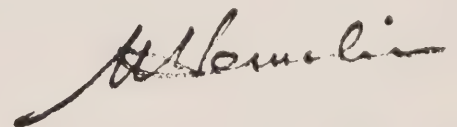
Canadians have, similarly, a long-standing commitment to internationalism and global concerns, whether through participation in the United Nations and its agencies, the Commonwealth, or the Francophone relations.

Being Canadian also involves a number of other commitments and responsibilities. Among those that we believe you should stress are the following:

- (a) A commitment to increased equity in education, among cultural and racial groups, and among all Canadians.
- (b) That being Canadian involves a strong cultural fabric including Canadian participation and development of arts, sciences, humanities, economics and technology.

In conclusion, you may also want to consider the brief definition of what a Canadian citizen is, or should be, proposed by the Canadian Council for Multicultural and Intercultural Education (CCMIE/CCEMI) in its forthcoming Policy Paper on Multicultural and Intercultural Education.

The goal of this learning process is full Canadian citizenship. The aim is to create a knowledgeable and sensitive human being with a global view of life - one who respects and promotes linguistic and cultural diversity, social equality, racial harmony and national cohesiveness, as the cornerstone of a free and democratic society.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Hamelin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Alan Tonks
Mayor, City of York

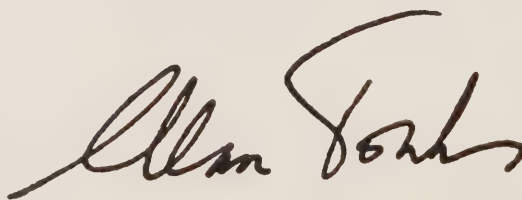
The issues of international peace and environmental protection are in the forefront of Canadians' minds . . .

Extended Vision

In the 1980's the Canadian citizen has broadened its scope of responsibility to extend beyond our own borders. We, as a people of many and varied backgrounds, have taken it upon ourselves to play a larger and more visible role in international concerns. Canadian citizens, in recognizing the quality of life enjoyed in Canada, feel strongly in ensuring that their fellow man in other countries also enjoy a quality lifestyle. The issues of international peace and environment protection are in the forefront of Canadians' minds, illustrating how Canadian citizens have grown and matured in their responsibility to global issues.

This extended vision of our responsibility reflects upon the diversity of cultures of our citizens. This rich variety of cultures in Canada has allowed the Canadian people to appreciate and understand the *social and political* climates throughout the world and to respond accordingly where appropriate. As a result, the Canadian people have earned both respect and admiration from virtually every country in the world. This is a fact that each and every one of us can be proud of and can learn further from.

Canadian citizenship always has been, and will continue to be a coveted possession throughout the world.



Christopher G. Trump

Vice-President
Spar Aerospace Ltd.

*Tradition has given us a sense of fair play
and caring for the least of our flock.*

A State Of Mind

I consider being Canadian to be more *a state of mind than a legal writ*. As countrymen we are few from many places in a huge land that is at one and the same time a mighty economic engine and a pioneering nation. Tradition has given us a sense of fair play and caring for the least of our flock. Newcomers have aided the edge of competition and initiative. There's potential there on a magnificent scale.



Ron Van Horne

Minister For Senior Citizens
Affairs Of Ontario

*By its flexibility, the Canadian identity allows for
the accommodation of many diverse cultural traditions
into the mainstream of Canadian society.*


Flexibility And Accommodation

Canadian identity has eluded most attempts at clear definition. It seems to me, however, that the lack of a distinct national identity is at the root of why Canada is successful as a multicultural society.

Canada is a country in which a tremendous number of ethnic groups live together in relative harmony. This is largely due to the fact that immigrants seeking residence in Canada do not have an inflexible, pre-determined image of "Canadian" imposed upon them. Accepting the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship has never required the abandonment or exchange of a previous cultural identity for a new one. By its flexibility, the Canadian identity allows for the accommodation of many diverse cultural traditions into the mainstream of Canadian society.

Toronto is just one example of how successful the multicultural mosaic of Canada can be. Without doubt, Toronto has one of the most diverse mixtures of cultures of any city in the world. The fact that its many cultures live and work together as well as they do proves that a peaceful multicultural city can be a reality. I feel that this harmony is due to the fact that people of various ethnic origins are encouraged to celebrate their cultural traditions openly, without any fear of compromising their status as Canadian citizens. In fact, the celebration of our cultural diversity may be what gives Canada a unique identity.

There is of course still room for fuller participation by some ethnic groups in Canadian society. But Toronto's experience shows that the accommodation of all cultures within the idea of Canadian citizenship is clearly possible. At its best, Canada may provide an example to other nations of how to meet the demands of an increasingly multicultural society - demands which are bound to grow throughout the world into the next century.



Lorna I. Van Mossel

Judge — Citizenship Court
Waterloo

*... I would like to see more attempts to understand
and deal with the problems of our native peoples ...*

Caring

As citizens we should work to solve our regional differences and maintain a United Canada.

We should allow all our people to be themselves - i.e. to keep their language, customs and folklore, while at the same time becoming fluent in English or French and becoming familiar with Canadian customs.

We should become accepting of other people while realizing that we are all part of the wonderful and free country of Canada.

Canadians are seen abroad as caring about other people, not being judgemental, appreciative of the way other people do things, not boastful, not loud, not domineering, interested in the customs of other people, trustworthy and dependable.

What a Canadian is like -

- 1) Caring about the welfare of others in our own communities - This is shown in the number of volunteers and volunteer organizations throughout the country.
- 2) Caring about other countries i.e. third world countries.

This is shown by the number of non-governmental organizations dedicated to aid and development - as well as the response from the Canadian people to appeals in times of emergencies.

What we should be like - I would like to see more attempts to understand and deal with the problems of our native peoples, the root causes of poverty in our communities, the social problems which result in family violence, wife and child abuse, and crimes of all kinds. I would also like to see even more concern for the less fortunate in the world and a willingness on our part, if required, to accept a lower standard of living so that others might live better.

In my courts, I try to have one of our new Canadians say a few words about his or her feelings on becoming a Canadian citizen.

The word "freedom" is always present in such speeches and I think that this is something that we should all work hard to maintain.

Lorna J. van Marrewijk

K.C. Veitch
Municipal Clerk
Town Of Bracebridge

*... we are uncertain of ourselves and greatly
lacking in confidence in our actions.*

Must We Ask?

The image of a Canadian is something that will evolve over the centuries as it has in other countries of the world that are hundreds of years older than Canada and no matter what you try to wring out of Canadians as to What Is A Canadian Citizen, it will mean nothing to that image that we create in the eyes of other people of this world. As long as we have to ask ourselves "What Is A Canadian Citizen" we will convey an image to the rest of the world that we are uncertain of ourselves and greatly lacking in confidence in our actions.

Probably the most clear image that we presently convey to the rest of the world is one of labour strife, being the world's leader in per capita time lost by striking workers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K.C. Veitch', with a large, stylized initial 'K' and a long, flowing underline.

Wesley H. Wakefield

Bishop-General
Of The Bible Holiness
Movement

*... beyond good citizenship, there is a true greatness
in the redemptive experience and knowledge of God.*

Liberty In Law And Society

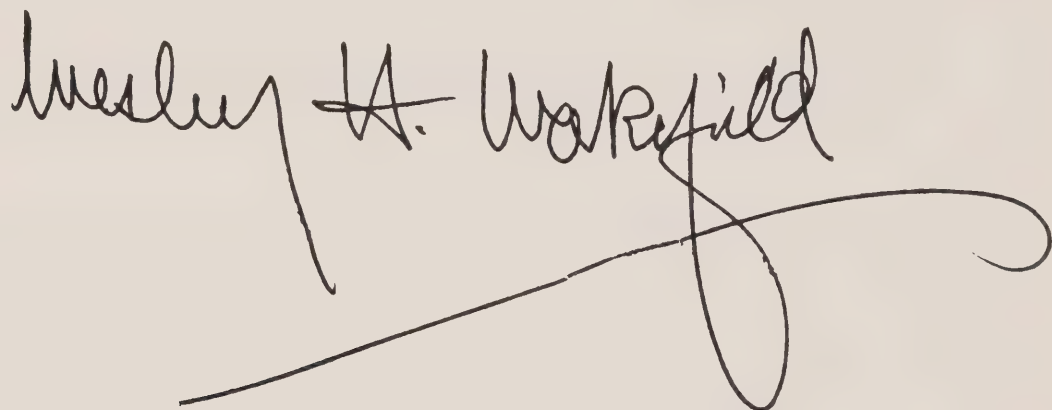
What Is A Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian citizen is one who is committed to the high ideals and practice of responsible democratic representative government upholding equal justice and liberty for all; and firmly standing for God-given human liberties and civil rights as an essential part of the life of the Canadian people. In this concept the Canadian citizen goes beyond mere tolerance by majorities or minorities, but truly recognizes the full and equal liberties of each and all in law and society, realizing that in this very diversity there is the strength of unity.

A Canadian citizen also recognizes that privileges imply personal responsibilities which base themselves on the high moral qualities of honesty, the ethics of integrity, and in our shared society, seeking the good of others - with especially the aim of relieving some of the burdens of life which weigh heavily amongst those disadvantaged who are least able to bear it. In doing this, the citizen shares a part in seeking to choose and elect wise, honest, and compassionate legislators to best govern this nation. It is these moral qualities and spiritual values which make for true greatness.

The citizen of Canada recognizes that this is not an island of isolation, but part of the world community in all its joys and sorrows; and as such joins with those of many countries, cultures, and traditions to promote peace, alleviate suffering, turning "swords into ploughshares" and aiming for qualities of life that will benefit all.

And it is our prayer, as an evangelical Christian movement, that our Canadian citizens may reflect that deep faith and consciousness of the Creator, Governor, and Preserver of all, and in this reverence of God, fulfill more truly that His “dominion shall be from sea to sea.” Even beyond good citizenship, there is a true greatness in the redemptive experience and knowledge of God.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Wesley H. Wakefield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish that extends from the end of the name across the page.

Suzanne Warren

Judge, Canadian Court Of
Citizenship
Toronto, Barrie, Brampton,
Oshawa, Peterborough

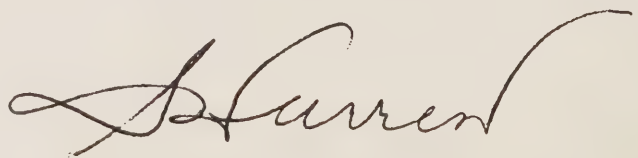
*A Canadian has an unflagging love of freedom and feels
comfortable with diversity.*

Tolerance, Civility And Compromise

The Canadian Citizen in 1987 has the privilege to live in one of the freest countries in regard to the safeguard and protection of his basic human freedoms. The rights of free speech, full political rights, mobility rights and probably one of the most unique privileges available in any nation on earth, the right to retain and share the culture and language of your country of origin. For the privileges, Canadians must be prepared to accept the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society — to exercise his full participation in the political process, to assist the country on a voluntary basis, to preserve its heritage and ideals; and to give of their time and effort to the less fortunate countrymen. Citizens of Canada must be prepared to continue the tolerance, civility and compromise that those before us have used to achieve this society of opportunity.

And one must never forget that the spiritual and mental stature we will achieve as a nation will be developed by the calibre of citizenship shown by each individual Canadian.

Canadians may be black or white, short or tall, non-Christian or Christian, rich or poor, but a Canadian is a person with respect for others, who envies no other nation, whose ideals are peace, order, good government and opportunity. A Canadian has an unflagging love of freedom and feels comfortable with diversity.



Gerald Weiner

Minister Of State For
Immigration

*Canada's citizens should become more involved
as members of a global community and strive to embrace the
quality of Canadian life.*

Different Things

Being Canadian means different things to different people and there may be as many varied responses as there are Canadians.

According to the Canadian Citizenship Act of 1977, a Canadian citizen is a person who was born in Canada or born outside Canada with one of his natural parents being a Canadian citizen at the time of his/her birth. Citizenship may also be granted to a person by the Minister responsible for the Act, or by any person authorized in writing by the Minister.

Both Canadian citizens by birth and citizens by choice are aware that their status makes them equal and unites them as members of a free nation, sharing privileges and responsibilities. Canadians should be proud of this country's unique multi-cultural character. All newcomers who qualify should be invited and encouraged to apply for Canadian citizenship, so that they may become equal members and thereby enrich the nation with their culture and history. Canada's citizens should become more involved as members of a global community and strive to enhance the quality of Canadian life.

Canada is a vast and great nation and we should always remember that we as Canada's citizens of today are building the future for the citizens of tomorrow.



Allen R. Wells

Director Of Education
Lambton County Board Of
Education

*... being sensitive to the difficulties faced by
others in the world ... has made Canadians practical
internationalists.*

Internationalists

What is a Canadian Citizen?

A Canadian citizen is one who, by birth or choice, carries on the dream of all mankind - a new and more equal beginning in a New World. As inheritors of a country filled with geographic and climatic challenges, Canadians often abandon more refined pursuits to the basic demands of primary production. Canadians are encouraged however, by their surroundings and their history, to be sensitive to the difficulties faced by others in the world. This has made them practical internationalists. They are motivated more by an unconscious folk memory of their roots elsewhere than by deep study. Sometimes blundering, but moved to be helpful, Canadians represent the unsophisticated good neighbours of many of earth's fellow citizens.

Allen R Wells

William Wrye

Minister Of Consumer And
Commercial Relations
Of Ontario

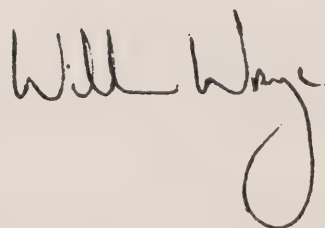
The marriage of distinct cultural values to a common system of democratic beliefs and practice . . . is the flourishing core of Canadian multiculturalism.

A Political Involvement

As a member of provincial parliament, one of my great pleasures has been to extend my welcome to new citizens in the riding of Windsor-Sandwich. I have observed that citizenship constitutes, not a change of nationality, but an affirmation of beliefs. Individuals who come to Canada marry distinct cultural values to a common system of democratic beliefs and practices. That marriage is at the flourishing core of Canadian multiculturalism.

Joined together by a shared commitment of the principles of equality, freedom, tolerance and community, Canadians view citizenship as political involvement, not cultural exclusion. To uphold that view seems to me to be the duty of every Canadian of every walk of life and occupation.

I am proud that the Ontario Human Rights Commission falls within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, as I believe it embodies and promotes the meaning of citizenship in Canada. It is perhaps appropriate in that regard, that the 40th anniversary of the Citizenship Act coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Human Rights Commission. We have made great strides in Canadian democracy, and with the contributions of all Canadian citizens, we shall continue.



*C'est certainement une richesse linguistique et culturelle que
l'apport de nombreuses personnes venues de différents pays pour
organiser ici leur vie et contribuer au progrès d'une
civilization encore jeune et spécifiquement dynamique.*

Une Réflexion Et Une Dynamique

La citoyenneté canadienne s'insère dans un contexte socio-culturel qui n'est pas celui d'un pays monolithique. Si la structure institutionnelle admet aujourd'hui l'existence des deux peuples fondateurs et ce qui en résulte, c'est-à-dire le bilinguisme officiel, il reste néanmoins que la structure ethnique du Canada a subi au cours des dernières décennies des changements profonds. Après les Français et les Anglais qui étaient venus au pays des Indiens et des Esquimaux, d'autres groupes ethniques se sont joints à la société pour bâtir un pays vaste autant que complexe.

C'est certainement une richesse linguistique et culturelle que l'apport de nombreuses personnes venues de différents pays pour organiser ici leur vie et contribuer au progrès d'une civilisation encore jeune et spécifiquement dynamique. On a constaté, avec raison, que l'aspect anthropologique de la société canadienne est fort hétérogène : d'aucuns parlent de la diversité, d'autres y voient une "mosaïque canadienne". Après les travaux de la Commission BB, on est arrivé à la conclusion que le pays est officiellement bilingue et fondamentalement multiculturel avec des cultures d'expression française et d'expression anglaise qui sont des cultures majeures.

Ce serait une erreur que d'écarter ces considérations du concept du citoyen canadien. L'unité ne se conçoit pas autrement qu'en fonction d'une diversité anthropologique et socio-culturelle qui offre tout en éventail de possibilités et qui

pose sans doute des problèmes d'intégration. Mais dans la planification à long terme, le citoyen canadien montre un profil généreux: il est attaché aux valeurs humaines et aux traditions provenant du monde entier, tirant ses richesses de multiples cultures, langues et croyances. Et ce potentiel est projeté dans le dynamisme d'une civilisation qui se fait, étape par étape, d'une génération à l'autre, dans une vaste étendue entre l'Atlantique et le Pacifique, entre les Etats-Unis et le Pôle Nord. Le citoyen canadien est celui qui, au sein d'une civilisation relativement jeune, cherche obstinément parmi les valeurs reçues des différents héritages sa propre identité: la valeur conquise l'emportera sur la valeur reçue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "André Gagnier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

INVITATION LETTER

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Canadian Citizenship. In perspective, it was only since the proclamation of the Citizenship Act in 1947 that we Canadians gained the right to call ourselves citizens of our own country. Many changes have occurred to Canada and its people in the last forty years so that the very notion of a Canadian today is not easy to identify. Nevertheless, as our people recognize differences and diversity among themselves, they also feel a common bond under the name of Canadian, and they share a united purpose.

Citizenship implies both rights and responsibilities. Seen from abroad, Canadians possess certain unique qualities and characteristics which are often admired and respected. We wonder if it is possible to delineate the qualities and characteristics of a Canadian in clear terms. By reflecting on what we are like we might gain a better understanding of ourselves, even an insight on what we might become.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Canadian Citizenship the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship would like to solicit your co-operation in expressing your views and feelings on the question of what a Canadian citizen is like to what one should be like. We would appreciate that you write freely on the rights, responsibilities, attributes, characteristics, etc., etc. which make up a profile of a Canadian in 1987.

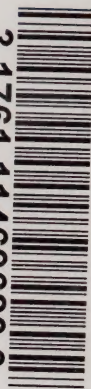
Based on input received, we will attempt to put together a comprehensive description of Canadian Citizenship in a report. It will contain the views of a broad spectrum of Canadians, many of whom have leadership roles such as yourself.

As President of the Advisory Council, I will be grateful with your cooperation in helping us mark this historical event. We will also be most appreciative if you could let us have your views by July 10, 1987.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Shiu Loon Kong
President

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